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California closer to first-in-U.S. rules on police shootings

By DON THOMPSON

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) —

A grieving mother choked up as she questioned why police didn't use other tactics instead of killing her son. A deputy recalled the terror of second-guessing herself as she traded fire with a suspect who killed her partner.

The emotional testimony Tuesday came before California lawmakers advanced a first-in-the-nation measure restricting when police can use deadly force, one of two radically different legislative proposals seeking to cut down on deadly shootings in the nation's most populous state. The measure faces a tougher fight in the full Assembly. Even some supporters on the public safety committee said it goes too far and will require changes as lawmakers try to balance the safety of officers and those they're tasked with protecting.

Last year's police shooting of unarmed vandalism suspect Stephon Clark in Sacramento inspired the



Supporters of a measure to restrict the use of deadly force by police, stand in the gallery as Elizabeth Medrano Escobedo, the mother of police shooting victim Christian Escobedo, testifies in favor of the bill, Tuesday, April 9, 2019, in Sacramento, Calif.

Associated Press

legislation that would allow officers to kill only if there is no reasonable alternative, or other non-lethal methods of resolution or de-escalation.

Continued on Page 3



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Feds charge 2 dozen in billion dollar Medicare brace scam

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal agents on Tuesday broke up a billion dollar Medicare scam that peddled unneeded orthopedic braces to hundreds of thousands of seniors. Two dozen people were charged, including doctors accused of writing bogus prescriptions.

The Justice Department said the scheme relied on overseas call centers to pry Medicare numbers from beneficiaries. Authorities also announced charges against owners of call centers, telemedicine firms and medical equipment companies that shipped unneeded back, shoulder, wrist and knee braces.

Profits from the scheme were laundered through offshore shell companies and then used to buy high-end cars, yachts and luxury homes here and abroad, officials said.

Medicare's anti-fraud unit said it's taking action against 130 medical equipment companies implicated. The companies billed the program a total of \$1.7 billion, but not all of it was



In this photo provided by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, HHS Office of Inspector General agents, take part in arrests Tuesday, April 9, 2019, in Queens, N.Y., as they break up a billion-dollar Medicare scam that peddled unneeded orthopedic braces to hundreds of thousands of seniors nationwide, using a network of foreign call centers.

Associated Press

paid out. The loss to Medicare was estimated at more than \$1.2 billion. The Health and Human Services inspector general's office said the fast-moving scam was fueled by kickbacks among the parties

involved. The FBI, the IRS and 17 U.S. attorney's offices took part in the crack-down.

"The telemedicine we are talking about is basically a tele-scam," said Gary Cantrell, who oversees fraud investigations for the HHS inspector general's office. "We are not talking about the use of advanced technology to provide better access to care."

Officials said the scam was detected last summer as complaints from beneficiaries poured in to the Medicare fraud hotline.

They said telemarketers would reach out to seniors offering "free" orthopedic braces, also touted through television and radio ads. Interested beneficiaries would be patched through to call centers, part of what officials described as an "international telemarketing network" with operations in the Philippines and throughout Latin America.

After verifying Medicare coverage, the seniors would be transferred to telemedicine companies for consultations with doctors, who wrote prescriptions for orthopedic braces, regardless of whether the patients needed them or not. Sometimes the same patient would get several

braces.

The call centers would collect prescriptions and sell them to medical equipment companies, which would ship the braces to beneficiaries and bill Medicare. Medical equipment companies would get \$500 to \$900 per brace from Medicare and would pay kickbacks of nearly \$300 per brace.

Officials said it's one of the biggest frauds the inspector general's office has seen. Charges were being brought against defendants in California, Florida, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Texas. Cantrell said federal agents had gained cooperation from people familiar with the various schemes.

"The breadth of this nationwide conspiracy should be frightening to all who rely on some form of health care," IRS criminal investigations chief Don Fort said in a statement. "The conspiracy ... details broad corruption, massive amounts of greed and systemic flaws in our health care system that were exploited by the defendants."

Attempts to reach defendants named by the Justice Department were unsuccessful. In several cases telephone numbers asso-

ciated with the individuals were disconnected. Others did not respond to messages.

The investigation is continuing. Authorities asked doctors who have been involved with telemedicine and medical equipment fraud to voluntarily come forward.

Health care fraud is a pervasive problem that costs taxpayers tens of billions of dollars a year. The true extent of it is unknown, and some cases involve gray areas of complex payment policies.

Experts say part of the problem is that Medicare is required to pay medical bills promptly, which means money often goes out before potential frauds get flagged. Investigators call that "pay and chase."

In recent years, Medicare has tried to adapt techniques used by credit card companies to head off fraud. Law enforcement coordination has grown, with strike forces of federal prosecutors and agents, along with state counterparts, specializing in health care investigations.

Officials said the government has options to recoup at least some of the money lost to Medicare, including seizing fraudsters' assets and accounts, as well as property purchased with the proceeds of the scam.

The Medicare beneficiaries drawn into the orthopedic braces scam didn't have to pay anything up front, but Cantrell said they have been harmed as well: A beneficiary's private information, once in the hands of fraudsters, can be resold for many illegal purposes.

Additionally, if a beneficiary whose information was misused ever does need an orthopedic brace, he or she may encounter waiting periods from Medicare. The program limits how often it pays for certain supplies and equipment.

"It can be very attractive to receive equipment," Cantrell said. "But after giving out your identifying information, it could be compromised to perpetuate additional fraud." □

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POLICE SHOOTINGS

Continued from Front

"It's time to make clear that the sanctity of human life is policing's highest priority," said Democratic Assemblywoman Shirley Weber of San Diego, adding later that her proposal "is designed to change the culture of policing in California."

The committee's chairman, Democratic Assemblyman Reggie Jones-Sawyer of Los Angeles, said a tougher standard will do little good without buy-in from law enforcement organizations.

Those groups are supporting a different plan, which is also before lawmakers, to require that every department have policies on when officers should use de-escalation tactics and other alternatives to deadly force.

Weber's measure got party-line support. The eight-member panel's two Republicans opposed the measure they said could make officers hesitate for a fatal second if they have to consider alternatives to lethal force.

That's what Sacramento County Deputy Sheriff Julie Robertson faced. She testified how her partner, Mark Stasyuk, died last fall during a gunfight and she hesitated as the suspect shot at her with only his back exposed.

"I recall in that moment thinking that if I were to shoot him in the back, I would be the next officer in the news being scrutinized for my actions," Robertson said. "The thought of having to second-guess my actions in that moment is frightening. ... This bill makes me wonder if sacrificing ev-

erything is worth it."

Elizabeth Medrano Escobedo told lawmakers that Los Angeles officers could have used other tactics instead of killing her son, Christian Escobedo, last year. Police said he was sleeping behind a parked car with a loaded handgun.

"This bill can save mothers from grieving the loss of their children, which is what I'm experiencing right now," Medrano said, choking up. Ciara Hamilton testified how Barstow police killed her cousin, Diante Yarber, last year after they said the car theft suspect hit two squad cars and nearly struck an officer. His family says the car was barely moving and that Yarber, who was black, might have lived had officers provided immediate medical attention.

"What does that tell us about policing in California and America? It's that black and brown people are not safe from state-sanctioned violence," Hamilton said.

The debate resonated personally for lawmakers.

Democratic Assemblywoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove of Los Angeles tearfully recounted finding four officers in her home responding to a false burglar alarm last fall. They treated her respectfully, yet Kamlager-Dove, who is black, said she started shaking and crying.

"And I realized I was crying because I was afraid. I didn't want to make any sudden movements," she said.

Kamlager-Dove broke down as she urged police organizations and reformers to reach consensus "because this hurts. ... I don't



Elizabeth Medrano Escobedo, left, mother of Christian Escobedo, who was killed by Los Angeles police, comforts Ciara Hamilton, whose cousin Diante Yarber was killed by Barstow police, during an Assembly hearing on legislation to restrict the use of deadly force by police, Tuesday, April 9, 2019, in Sacramento, Calif.

Associated Press

want any of us to live in fear." Republican Assemblyman Tom Lackey of Palmdale, who spent 28 years as a highway patrolman, recalled how a fellow officer killed someone in the line of duty and eventually ended his own life.

"When peace officers are placed in a position to where they feel like they have to use deadly force, no one can really understand that unless you've been in that position," Lackey said.

Plumas County Sheriff's Deputy Ed Obayashi, a use-

of-force expert, called Weber's measure "an exercise in legal futility" because he predicts judges will interpret the language the same way they do court rulings. Prosecutors would have to prove an officer was criminally negligent, which carries a high legal burden.

Weber acknowledges officers would have to egregiously violate a policy to face charges but expects the standard would deter shootings. A Senate committee is expected to consider a police-backed alternative in two weeks. That

measure would enshrine court standards into law, allowing officers to use deadly force when they have a reasonable fear of being harmed. The standard has made it rare for officers to be charged and rarer still to be convicted.

Law enforcement groups plan to amend the legislation "to ensure that we are truly putting forward the most comprehensive legislative solution to effectively reduce the use of force in our state," California Police Chiefs Association president Ron Lawrence said. □



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In this Aug. 10, 2005, file photo, tourist Chris Farthing from Suffolk County, England, takes a picture while visiting Chaco Culture National Historical Park in northwestern New Mexico. Associated Press

U.S. lawmakers seek to protect national park in New Mexico

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — A renewed effort was launched Tuesday to halt federal leases for oil and natural gas development near a national park in New Mexico held sacred by Native Americans. Four members of New Mexico's all-Democratic congressional delegation introduced legislation to

prohibit the expansion of mineral development on federal inholdings within a roughly 10-mile (16-kilometer) radius surrounding Chaco Culture National Historical Park. According to the delegation, federal mineral rights span about 500 square miles (1,300 square kilometers) within the proposed buffer zone — a check-board of federal, state, tribal and private land. The park's ancient, astronomically aligned dwellings and roadways are an international attraction, and many Native American communities trace their ancestry and traditions to the area.

es of state trust holdings in the Chaco area is being prepared by State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard, who announced she will sign the measure April 23. Supporters of the federal legislation say they want to protect the sense of remoteness that comes with making the journey to Chaco. They are also concerned about the preservation of ancient stone structures and other features outside the national park's boundaries. Newly elected U.S. Rep. Debra Haaland, a tribal member of Laguna Pueblo, embraced the proposed drilling restrictions.

"This special place should not be under constant threat of destruction," Sen. Tom Udall said. Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and local tribal pueblo leaders joined lawmakers on a conference call to endorse the bill. Proposed restrictions on energy development would not apply to Native American or private holdings. Similar federal legislation was introduced in 2018. The bill's future remains uncertain in the GOP-controlled Senate. Sens. Udall and Martin Heinrich were asked whether they had spoken with Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, whose agency oversees the Bureau of Land Management and mineral exploration in the region.

"Chaco Canyon was my ancestral homeland and remains a living landscape," she said on a group call with reporters. "It's a place where New Mexico families make memories, and families from all over the world make memories." Federal land managers repeatedly have deferred any interest by the oil and gas industry in parcels that fall within the buffer. Still, tribes and others are concerned that energy companies keep nominating parcels for possible inclusion in quarterly lease sales held by the Bureau of Land Management. They say a permanent buffer would prevent that.

"I believe the administration knows very well my position in terms of leasing within the 10-mile buffer, and I hope that they'll honor that," Udall said. Heinrich did not comment. A moratorium on new leas-

Michael Chavarria, vice chairman of a coalition of 20 pueblo governors, said concerns about preserving scattered Chaco cultural sites extend beyond the 10-mile buffer outlined in the proposed legislation. The bill also emphasizes the federal government's obligation to consult with tribes. □

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Suit filed over gun controls inspired by synagogue shooting

By RAMESH SANTANAM and MICHAEL RUBINKAM
PITTSBURGH (AP) — Gun rights groups sued Tuesday to block Pittsburgh from enforcing firearms legislation passed after a mass shooting at a synagogue, accusing city officials of blatantly defying the state's prohibition on municipal gun regulation.

Democratic Mayor Bill Peduto signed the bills into law in a ceremony at the City-County Building, declaring the community had come together "to say enough is enough." City officials said they had to act because the Republican-controlled Pennsylvania Legislature — which is planning to hold a memorial service for the victims this week — will not.

"We are going to take some action, we are going to do something positive and, yes, it is going to be everlasting," said Peduto, surrounded by gun-control advocates and members of three congregations that were targeted in the shooting rampage at Tree of Life Synagogue. "Change only happens when you challenge the status quo."

Minutes later, a coalition of gun rights groups sued to get the newly minted laws overturned, calling them "patently unenforceable, unconstitutional, illegal." Shortly after that, a second lawsuit, this one backed by the National Rifle Association, declared that "Pittsburgh has violated the rights of its citizens."

"Worse yet, Pittsburgh has committed this violation without any realistic prospect of diminishing the ... incidence of horrific mass shootings," said the suit, filed by four city residents. "All it will do is leave law-abiding citizens more vulnerable to attack from better-armed and more ruthless assailants."

The new legislation restricts military-style assault weapons like the AR-15 rifle authorities say was used in the Oct. 27 massacre that killed 11 and wounded seven. It also bans most uses

of armor-piercing ammunition and high-capacity magazines and allows the temporary seizure of guns from people who are determined to be a danger to themselves or others. The first two laws are due to take effect in 60 days, the imminent-danger law in 180 days.

Whether the city will be able to enforce them is an open question. State law has long prohibited municipalities from regulating the ownership or possession of guns or ammunition, and courts have thrown out other local firearms measures, including a 1990s-era assault weapons ban in Pittsburgh.

But city leaders said they were eager to take on the fight, given the Legislature's traditional reluctance to pass gun legislation.

"This fantasy that somehow the state is going to step up and help us is simply not going to happen," said Council President Bruce Kraus.

The bill signing took place as state lawmakers prepared to come together for a memorial service for the Tree of Life victims. The unusual joint session at the Capitol in Harrisburg on Wednesday will bring together the House and Senate for prayers and speeches about the attack. Peduto's spokesman said the timing was coincidental. The Pittsburgh bills — proposed not long after the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history — were weakened ahead of City Council passage in an effort to make them more likely to survive a court challenge. While one of the bills originally included an outright ban on assault weapons, the revised measure bars the "use" of assault weapons in public places.

The city will be represented in court by lawyers with Everytown for Gun Safety, a group backed by billionaire Michael Bloomberg.

In another legal filing Tuesday, the Allegheny County Sportsmen's League asked a judge to hold the city, Peduto and six council

members who voted for the gun-control legislation in contempt of court, contending they violated a 1995 legal settlement in which city officials dropped the earlier effort to ban assault weapons and agreed to "abide by and adhere to Pennsylvania law." □



Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto, surrounded by supporters and family members of Tree of Life synagogue shooting victims, signs three gun-control bills into law, Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at the City-County Building in downtown Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

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NYC orders mandatory vaccines for some amid measles outbreak



A woman, right, who identified herself as Ester, passes a group of boys, Tuesday, April 9, 2019, in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, New York.

Associated Press

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NEW YORK (AP) — Health officials Tuesday ordered nearly everyone in a heavily Orthodox Jewish New York City neighborhood to be vaccinated for measles or face fines, reviving a public-health strategy that experts say hasn't been used in the U.S. in recent memory.

The emergency order came as the city, a suburban New York county and some other parts of the nation grapple with a spurt in a disease the U.S. declared eradicated almost two decades ago.

"This is an unusual action," New York Mayor Bill de Blasio acknowledged, "and it's because of the sheer extent of the crisis."

Meanwhile, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention elevated its response to measles, establishing a larger team to focus on outbreaks that have sickened 465 people nationwide this year — the second-greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since measles was eliminated domestically in 2000.

The nation's biggest city is in the midst of its biggest measles outbreak since 1991, with 285 cases diagnosed since last fall — compared to two in all of 2017,

officials said. They blamed the spike partly on anti-vaccine campaigns spreading misinformation that immunizations are dangerous.

News of the order got a mixed reaction among Orthodox Jews in Williamsburg, the Brooklyn neighborhood affected by the order. Some residents — even those who support vaccination — said they felt uncomfortable about the city pushing inoculations on people who don't want them.

Others remain convinced, against expert assurances, that vaccines are unsafe.

"It's true that a lot of people have measles, and measles are not a very good thing, said resident Aron Braver, but he thinks the vaccine is "also not a very good thing."

"And it's everybody's option to do what he wants. What he decides," Braver added. The New York Civil Liberties Union also questioned the city's move.

Executive director Donna Lieberman called it "an extreme measure" that "raises civil liberties concerns about forced medical treatment."

De Blasio, a Democrat, said officials were confident the order would withstand legal scrutiny.

Rockland County, north of the city, has already faced legal action over its efforts to contain measles: an emergency order that would ban children from public places unless they've been immunized. A court halted it last week, but County Executive Ed Day said Tuesday he planned to appeal.

"If this is not an emergency, what is?" asked Day, a Republican. His county, which has sizeable Orthodox Jewish communities with close ties to Brooklyn, has logged 168 measles cases since last fall.

He said Rockland officials are crafting a new order designed to isolate people exposed to measles.

New York City's order applies to unvaccinated people who live, work or go to school in four ZIP codes, with some exceptions, such as for children under 6 months old.

Officials said they would help people arrange to get shots but were prepared to fine them as much as \$1,000 if they refused.

The measure comes a day after the city ordered Orthodox Jewish schools and day care programs in Williamsburg to exclude unvaccinated students from classes during the outbreak

or risk being closed down. The city believes an estimated 1,800 children in the neighborhood hadn't been immunized as of December.

At Yeshiva Kehilath Yakov school, Rabbi David Oberlander said administrators took pains to make sure children with measles — some 20 cases in recent months — weren't in class.

"We try to control our school, and we really strive to comply 100% with the Department of Health," he said. "But we don't control the parents, and we don't intend to control the parents."

U.S. cities have fined residents before for not being vaccinated, but "not in our modern history," said Lawrence Gostin, a Georgetown Law professor focused on public health law. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld such an order in a 1905 case involving smallpox vaccinations in Cambridge, Massachusetts. But over time, school-vaccination requirements — which the high court upheld in 1922 — became the centerpiece of public health officials' strategies to fight measles, mumps and other communicable diseases. Overall vaccination rates remain high, but the per-

centage of kids under 2 who haven't gotten their shots is growing, according to the Centers for Disease Control. The CDC attributes the trend partly to lack of health insurance.

But some experts also point to an "anti-vax" viewpoint that has gained some traction in recent years, helped by social media.

"I think it's a sign of the impact of vaccine denialism, where we're now in a place where cities feel like they need to up the ante" with vaccination orders, says Scott Burris, a public health law professor at Temple University's Beasley School of Law.

In Brooklyn and Rockland County, anti-vaccination advocates have been circulating a 40-page booklet around Orthodox Jewish enclaves. It lays out numerous anti-vaccine arguments that have been debunked by scientific studies, such as a claim that measles, mumps and rubella vaccinations increase the risk of autism.

"There is a very strong anti-vaccination propaganda movement in these communities, and they're very effective," said Blima Marcus, a nurse practitioner who lives in Brooklyn. She and fellow volunteers from the Orthodox Jewish Nurses Association have been holding workshops to reassure mothers that the vaccine is safe and effective.

A query was sent to two email addresses listed as contacts in the booklet.

Spread through coughs and sneezes, measles is highly contagious and can cause serious health problems, including pneumonia and brain swelling that can lead to seizures, deafness or intellectual disability. Deaths are rare in the U.S., but measles killed 110,000 people globally in 2017.

The CDC recommends that all children get two doses of measles vaccine. It says the vaccine is 97% effective.

The National Institutes of Health says reports of serious reactions to vaccines are rare: about one in every 100,000 vaccinations. □

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Suit targets California's ban on 'Come on You Whites' plate

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER
LOS ANGELES (AP) — A soccer fan says in a lawsuit that the California Department of Motor Vehicles violated his First Amendment rights by rejecting a personalized license plate he said would celebrate his favorite team, but which the DMV determined might be deemed offensive.

Jon Kotler applied for a plate that would read "COYW," an acronym of the slogan "Come on You Whites" used by supporters of London-based Fulham Football Club, according to the federal lawsuit filed in Los Angeles on Tuesday. Fulham players wear white jerseys.

In denying the proposed plate, the DMV said the abbreviation could "have racial overtones" and carry "connotations offensive to

good taste and decency," according to the court filing.

The department's rejection of the application violated his right to freedom of speech, said Kotler, a lawyer and constitutional scholar at the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

The Department of Motor Vehicles said Tuesday that it does not comment on pending lawsuits.

Kotler's suit asks the court to declare the Department of Motor Vehicles' criteria for personalized license plates unconstitutional. He also wants the department to pay his court costs.

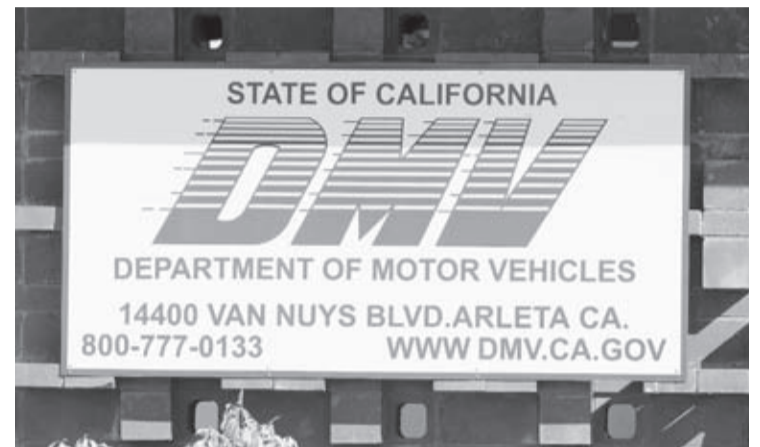
"You can't allow bureaucrats to make decisions that are fundamental to what it means to be an American, and our free speech is one

of those things," Kotler said in a news release. "When the government starts to infringe on our rights, that's when the individual citizen must speak up."

In its rejection letter to Kotler, the Department of Motor Vehicles acknowledged the difficulties in balancing "an individual's constitutional right to free speech and expression while protecting the sensibilities of all segments of our population."

In a 1973 case, the California Court of Appeals upheld the Department of Motor Vehicles' standard of "good taste and decency" in rejecting a plaintiff's claim that his free speech was violated when the department rejected his requested license plate, "EZ LAY."

Constitutional scholar David L. Hudson said courts



The California Department of Motor Vehicles office in the Arleta neighborhood of Los Angeles is seen Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

Associated Press

are often split in cases claiming censorship over personalized plates.

"It appears in this case that the government has engaged in regrettable censorship of Mr. Kotler's speech," said Hudson, who teaches at Tennessee's Belmont University and is a fellow at the Freedom Forum Institute. "To me courts should be very sensitive to viewpoint discrimination and should err on the side of protecting the individual's speech from govern-

ment censorship."

Kotler is being represented pro bono by the libertarian-leaning nonprofit Pacific Legal Foundation. The group criticized the Department of Motor Vehicles' "attempt to make itself the speech police" in a statement announcing the lawsuit.

"You can call Jon a sports fan or a First Amendment expert, but the DMV's misguided efforts to regulate license plates have misbranded Jon as a racist," the foundation said. □

Flooding forces evacuations for 2nd day in Oregon

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) — About 500 people remained evacuated Tuesday from their homes in Oregon after record-breaking rain that shut down roads and forced officials to close schools in the hardest-hit communities.

The evacuations followed moderate flooding Sunday night and Monday along the Coast Fork of the Willamette and Row rivers near Eugene, The Register-Guard reported.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office urged Eugene-area residents to stay off roads and said it was working to help people in several

homes completely surrounded by water.

Firefighters rescued a 75-year-old man whose pickup truck went off a flooded stretch of road outside Eugene near Junction City, KVAL-TV reported.

More than 4.3 inches of rain has fallen in Eugene since Thursday, with a record-breaking 2.34 inches on Sunday alone. That's the most precipitation there in a single calendar day in more than seven years, and it breaks the mark for the wettest April day on record.

Andy Bryant, hydrologist

for the National Weather Service in Portland, told the newspaper that the service has no record of a flood event in the southern Willamette Valley this late in the rainy season.

"The time of the year, just in my mind, makes it historically significant that we're having a flood like this a week into April," Bryant said. "What we've had is more of a November through February kind of weather event."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is releasing more water than usual from Willamette River reservoirs to prevent overflow. □

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France softens stance ahead of May plea for new Brexit delay

By **RAF CASERT**
SYLVIE CORBET

BRUSSELS (AP) — Tough-guy France softened its stance Tuesday and showed willingness to accept yet another delay in the long-awaited Brexit, diminishing the chances that Britain would crash out of the European Union this week without any future plan.

But British Prime Minister Theresa May still has a rough day ahead of her as she heads to an emergency summit in Brussels on Wednesday to plead for a new Brexit extension — for the second time in three weeks. Such gatherings aren't getting any friendlier. With nearly everyone fully resigned to Britain's departure from the European Union, two questions took center stage Tuesday: How — and when — to get the U.K. politely out the door.

EU countries, especially France, have become increasingly exasperated with the political division and uncertainty in Britain about a way forward.

The bloc's leaders have tried to help May over the past two years of negotiations, even after she missed her hand-picked Brexit departure date on March 29 because of a parliamentary revolt. After obtaining a delay until Friday, she will be asking for another postponement that lasts until June 30 at the special EU summit.

On a charm offensive with key leaders, May flew first to Berlin Tuesday to plead for good terms with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and then set off for Paris for an encounter with President Emmanuel Macron, seen as her counterpart with the toughest demands.

"France is really trying to play bad cop here," said Larissa Brunner, an analyst at European Policy Center, referring to French insistence that another extension to her deadline must come with strings attached and assurances from London.

However, an official in Macron's office said Tuesday that France was ready to



In this Nov. 24, 2017 file photo, British Prime Minister Theresa May, right, speaks with European Council President Donald Tusk, second left, as European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker looks on during a meeting in Brussels.

accept a new delay. While Macron still has a long list of conditions, it was a notable shift in France's tone compared to last week. The reason for the change was unclear, though concerns have been growing about how badly a hard Brexit would hit the French economy, too. France was also encouraged by May's outreach last week to Britain's political opposition to find a compromise, and Macron may have been swayed in part by a meeting with the Irish prime minister.

France, which has had a love-hate relationship with Britain for about 1,000 years, is now at the forefront to get the EU to take some decisive action.

"We won't be able to perpetually live with the exit of Brexit," French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said over the weekend. "At some point there is an exit." Germany thinks likewise. "There isn't an endless readiness to keep talking about delays so long as there is no substantial progress on the British side," said Michael Roth, Germany's deputy foreign minister.

All eyes are now turned toward Macron, who has it in his power to force Britain to choose between a no-deal Brexit on Friday and cancelling its depart-

ure altogether. A drastic cliff-edge departure would have huge costs to businesses and trade across the English Channel and be very cumbersome to travelers as it would hit airports, ports, tariff rules and standard regulations overnight. EU rules say that any extension to the Brexit deadline needs unanimity among the 27 other member states, and even if smaller member states would be hard-pressed to do it on their own, France has never shied away from being an EU leader — even at the expense of Britain. After all, French President Charles De Gaulle twice vetoed British membership in the 1960s, and the two countries long fought tooth and nail over everything from farming to fishing rights to how much Britain should pay into the EU budget. Add to that France's long-held championing of state oversight of the economy as opposed to Britain's staunch defense of free-market liberalism, and the potential for political infighting has always been there.

Among conditions France is now setting to agree to a new delay: A "credible prospect" of some kind of solution to the British political deadlock. A promise that Britain won't keep ask-

ing for more delays. And guarantees that Britain would not be involved in future EU decisions while its Brexit drama is playing out. "The longer the extension might be, the more guarantees are needed," the French official said, speaking on condition he not be named in keeping with presidential policy. Britain's Byzantine parliamentary disarray that has left Brexit in a state of a flux has added to continental annoyance.

"We are in a very, very frustrating situation here," Germany's Roth said as he arrived Tuesday at an EU meeting in Luxembourg. But, he added, a disorderly Brexit would be "the worst of all options on the table." "So far absolutely nothing has changed," Roth said. "Within the European Union, there isn't an endless readiness to keep talking about delays so long as there is no substantial progress on the British side."

Every British initiative to get a deal has floundered so far. Several days of talks between May's Conservative government and the main opposition Labour Party tried to find a compromise Brexit deal have failed to produce a breakthrough. Labour favors a softer Brexit than the government has proposed, and wants to re-

tain a close economic relationship with the bloc.

After further talks Tuesday over an informal lunch of sandwiches and sausage rolls, the two sides said they would resume their discussions after Wednesday's EU summit.

May's Downing Street office said the talks had been "productive and wide-ranging." Labour business spokeswoman Rebecca Long-Bailey said there had not been "any fundamental shift ... but we're hopeful that progress will be made." For two years, March 29 was the date etched in law to get Brexit through. It has come and gone, and the new red line has become the May 23-26 European elections and the July 2 start of the new five-year EU legislative session.

European Council President Donald Tusk has offered up the possibility of a long-term delay, a one-year "flexextension."

But some EU leaders worry that could have drawbacks — especially after British Brexit-backers suggested they would try to make life difficult for the EU. Conservative lawmaker Mark Francois said that if the U.K. remained in the bloc, "then in return we will become a Trojan horse within the EU, which will utterly derail all your attempts to pursue a more federal project." Little wonder EU leaders are looking for a true commitment of cooperation from May as a prerequisite for a long extension to the Brexit deadline. □

Associated Press





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German on trial over death of 5-year-old Yazidi slave girl

By DAVID RISING
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — A German convert to Islam went on trial Tuesday on charges that, as a member of the extremist Islamic State group in Iraq, she allowed a 5-year-old Yazidi girl she and her husband kept as a slave to die of thirst in the hot sun.

The 27-year-old, identified only as Jennifer W. in line with privacy rules, is charged with murder, a war crime and membership in a terrorist organization, and could face life in prison if convicted in Munich state court.

Pleas are not entered in the German system, and as her trial opened her attorney Seda Basay-Yildiz said the defendant had no statement to make to the court about the charges against her, the dpa news agency reported.

The girl's mother is to be



27-year-old German Jennifer W. covers her face as she arrives at a court in Munich, southern Germany, Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

called as a witness, and is also a co-plaintiff in the case as allowed under German law. Her lawyers in-

clude Amal Clooney, who specializes in international law and human rights cases.

Neither was in court for the opening hearing before the trial was adjourned for three weeks, but Clooney

said in a statement it was hoped the case would encourage more prosecutions of returning Islamic State members for international crimes.

The United Nations has called the IS assault on the Yazidis' ancestral homeland in northern Iraq in 2014 a genocide, saying the Yazidis' "400,000-strong community had all been displaced, captured or killed." Of the thousands captured by IS, boys were forced to fight for the extremists, men were executed if they didn't convert to Islam — and often executed in any case — and women and girls were sold into slavery. "Yazidi victims of genocide have waited far too long for their day in court," Clooney said.

"I hope that this will be the first of many trials that will finally bring ISIS to justice in line with international law." □

Associated Press

Group: Migrant rescue ship low on supplies in Mediterranean

By COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Maltese armed forces on Tuesday evacuated for medical reasons one of 64 migrants aboard a German humanitarian rescue ship that has been at sea for six days as Europe haggles over where to provide safe port.

The woman was suffering from dizziness, but officials from the German humanitarian group Sea-Eye said that an accurate diagnosis wasn't possible on board.

"We have to expect such

situations to increase if these people are not allowed to move quickly to a safe place," said Jan Ribbeck, operations manager aboard the group's rescue vessel Alan Kurdi.

Sea-Eye said it has informed Malta, the nearest country with a port, that drinking water and food is running low for the rescued people, now including 11 women, a child and an infant.

The European Union, meanwhile, said it had triggered talks with member states to identify a port and coun-

tries to take in the migrants, as the nearest countries, Malta and Italy, have refused to allow port access to any NGO rescue ship.

Sea-Eye spokesman Dominik Reisinger said the "political question about the distribution of the rescued ... overshadows the human rights" of those on board.

Many have told their rescuers of abuse and mistreatment suffered in Libya, Sea-Eye said in a statement, including sexual assault and blackmail. □



This April 3, 2019 photo shows the Sea-Eye rescue ship in the waters off Libya.

Associated Press

Sudanese activists: 14 more killed in clashes with police

By **SAMY MAGDY**
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Sudanese security forces tried again to break up an anti-government sit-in outside military headquarters in the capital, Khartoum, killing at least 14 people Tuesday, activists behind the demonstration said.

The deaths brought the total number of fatalities in the sit-in since the weekend to 22, including five soldiers, according to the activists. The demonstration is the latest in nearly four months of anti-government protests that have plunged Sudan into its worst crisis in years. What initially erupted late last year as rallies against a spiraling economy quickly escalated into calls for an end to President Omar al-Bashir's 30-year rule.

On Monday, for the first time, leaders of the protests called on the military's leadership to abandon al-Bashir and join their call for change. And on Tuesday, they invited military leaders to meet with their representatives to "discuss arrangements for a transition" in Sudan.

Maj. Gen. Ahmed Khalifa



A Sudanese soldier protects protesters at a demonstration near the military headquarters, Tuesday, April 9, 2019, in the capital Khartoum, Sudan.

Associated Press

al-Shami, a spokesman for the military, said the military has nothing to do with political matters and authorities ordered the protest to be broken up.

"This sit-in ... could drag the country into chaos.

... All demonstrators were

pushed out of the area surrounding the armed forces' headquarters and this was done smoothly without significant casualties," he said in comments broadcast on TV.

In a joint statement on Tuesday, Norway, the U.K.

and the U.S. backed the protesters' demands, urging Sudanese authorities to "deliver a credible plan" for political transition.

"Failing to do so risks causing greater instability. The Sudanese leadership has a grave responsibility to

avoid such an outcome," they said.

Sarah Abdel-Jaleel, spokeswoman for the Sudanese Professionals Association, said the new clashes erupted early on Tuesday between security forces and protesters who have been camping out in front of the military complex in Khartoum for the past four days. The police used tear gas, rubber bullets and live fire to try to disperse the protesters, according to Abdel-Jaleel's union, which is spearheading the demonstrations. It was the second time security forces failed to break up the sit-in protests, which has grown into one of the biggest rallies in the current wave of unrest. But a crack seemed to be emerging among the Sudanese authorities and the military as to how to handle the protests.

Online video footage circulating Tuesday showed some Sudanese troops seeking to protect the protesters and guarding the entrance to the sit-in area. Heavy gunfire can be heard as protesters seek cover from the descending security forces. □

Iranian lawmakers convene with chants of 'Death to America'



In this Feb. 3, 2019 file photo, an Iranian clergyman looks at domestically built surface to surface missiles displayed by the Revolutionary Guard in a military show marking the 40th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, at Imam Khomeini Grand Mosque in Tehran, Iran.

Associated Press

By **NASSER KARIMI**
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Chanting "Death to America," Iranian lawmakers convened an open session of parliament Tuesday following the White House's decision

to designate Iran's elite paramilitary Revolutionary Guard a foreign terrorist organization.

The U.S. move was an unprecedented declaration against a foreign government, one that could

prompt retaliation and make it harder for Americans to work with allies in the region.

Iran's Supreme National Security Council immediately responded by designating the U.S. Central Command, also known as CENTCOM, and all its forces as terrorist, and labeling the U.S. a "supporter of terrorism."

It was the first time the United States has designated an entity of another government as a terrorist organization, placing a group with vast economic resources that answers only to Iran's supreme leader in the same category as al-Qaida and the Islamic State group.

In Tehran, the semi-official Fars news agency said many of the lawmakers wore the uniform of the guard in a show of support for the force as they con-

vened for a parliament session marking the National Day of the Revolutionary Guard, which follows the lunar calendar. This year it coincides with the April 9 holiday known as Nuclear Day. Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani denounced the U.S. decision as the "climax of stupidity and ignorance." Supreme National Security Council's spokesman, Keivan Khosravi, said that going forward, "any unusual move by American forces in the region will be perceived as the behavior by a terrorist group." He did not elaborate.

Iranian newspapers carried reports of the U.S. move along with bellicose commentary on their front pages.

The Guard-affiliated Javan daily said any attack on Revolutionary Guard bases and facilities will be "rec-

ognized as a right" for Iran to respond. The hard-line Kayhan newspaper said it gave Iranians "permission" to kill American military personnel.

State-owned IRAN daily went a step further, saying the U.S. move was a "designation of the entire Iranian nation" as terrorist.

The pro-reform Shargh daily described it as "the last card" of President Donald Trump against Iran. Trump last year pulled America out of the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers and re-imposed sanctions on the country, mainly targeting Iran's vital oil sector.

Marking Iran's Nuclear Day, President Hassan Rouhani on Tuesday unveiled dozens of unspecified "achievements" in nuclear technology, something he does every year. □



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9 leaders of Hong Kong pro-democracy protests found guilty

By ALICE FUNG
Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — A Hong Kong court found nine leaders of 2014 pro-democracy demonstrations guilty Tuesday on public nuisance and other charges, a verdict that activists say likely presages more restrictions on free expression in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory. Those convicted included law professor Benny Tai, retired sociology professor Chan Kin-man and pastor Chu Yiu-ming. Two current lawmakers, one former lawmaker, two student leaders and a political activist were also found guilty.

The nine were leaders of the nonviolent "Occupy Central" campaign to demand the right of the city's population to choose its own leader rather than merely approve a candidate picked by Beijing. "Hong Kong courts, by labeling peaceful protests in pursuit of rights as public nuisance, are sending a terrible message that will likely embolden the government to prosecute more



Occupy Central leaders, from right, Benny Tai, Chan Kin-man, Chu Yiu-ming, Tanya Chan and Eason Chung shout slogans before entering a court in Hong Kong, Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

Associated Press

peaceful activists, further chilling free expression in Hong Kong," Maya Wang, senior China researcher at Human Rights Watch, said in a statement.

Prior to the verdict's announcement, Chan said he and the others had no

regrets for their actions but were chiefly concerned with the movement's legacy.

While the verdicts will have an impact on the individuals, "we are more concerned about how this movement will be rec-

ognized by the people of Hong Kong," Chan said. Hong Kong's biggest popular protest in recent years, also known as the umbrella movement, laid siege to government headquarters and paralyzed Hong Kong's financial district for

79 days. Thousands staked out encampments on major thoroughfares. Several hundred were arrested.

The movement fizzled without winning concessions from the Hong Kong government for free elections and the pro-democracy movement has struggled to retain a high profile in recent years.

More than 100 supporters, some raising yellow umbrellas that were a symbol of the protests, gathered Tuesday at the courthouse in the West Kowloon district. Tai said that was a sign the spirit of the protests lived on.

"I have the confidence, many people today, with me together, we will continue to strive for Hong Kong's democracy. And we will persist and we will not give up," Tai said.

Ranging in age from their 30s to 70s, the nine defendants span generations of Hong Kong citizens who have been agitating for full democracy. Tai, Chan and Chu were found guilty of conspiracy to cause a public nuisance. □

Kazakhstan to have early presidential vote in 2 months

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Kazakhstan's interim president on Tuesday ordered an early presidential election for June 9 following the unexpected resignation of Nursultan Nazarbayev last month.

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, who became the acting head of state when Nazarbayev resigned, said in a televised address to the nation that the vote will be held on June 9.

Tokayev, formerly the speaker of the upper house of parliament, hasn't yet announced his intention

to seek the presidency. Pundits saw him and Nazarbayev's eldest daughter as the two most likely candidates to succeed Nazarbayev.

Dariga Nazarbayeva, who has been named parliament speaker after Tokayev became acting president, has remained coy about her plans.

Her aide said Tuesday in remarks carried by the Tengrinews agency that she has no intention to run, but Nazarbayeva herself downplayed the statement just a few hours later.

She noted that it will be up

to political parties to nominate presidential candidates, but wouldn't say if she would accept an offer to run for president.

Her father took the helm in Kazakhstan when it was still part of the Soviet Union and led it for three decades.

The 78-year-old has retained the honorary title of "Elbasy" or "Leader of the Nation" and is expected to continue to wield considerable political power as chairman of the nation's Security Council and the head of the ruling Nur Otan party. □



Kazakhstan's interim President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, center, attends a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin wall in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, April 4, 2019.

Associated Press

Border chaos forces truckers to wait hours, sometimes days

By CEDAR ATTANASIO
Associated Press
CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — To deal with a surge of migrating Central American families, the Trump administration has reassigned so many inspectors from U.S.-Mexico border crossings that truckers are waiting in line for hours and sometimes days to get shipments to the United States. Truckers have been sleeping in their vehicles to hold spots in line in Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas. The city brought in portable toilets, and an engine oil company hired models in skin-tight clothing to hand out burritos and bottled water to idled drivers.



A row of trucks wait to cross the border with the United States in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

Associated Press

"My family doesn't recognize me at home anymore," Jaime Monroy, a trucker who lives in Ciudad Juarez, said after sleeping overnight in his cabin with a truck full of wooden furniture. "I leave at 3 in the morning and come back

at 10 at night." The waits are a reminder that even though President Donald Trump walked back his threat to close the border, the administration has created significant impediments for truckers, travel-

ers and shoppers with its redeployment of customs agents. Business leaders are starting to lose patience as they struggle to get products to American grocery stores, manufacturers and con-

struction sites. "This is a systemwide issue," said Paola Avila, chairwoman of the Border Trade Alliance, a group that advocates for cross-border commerce. All along the 2,000-mile border, wait

times have increased. "There's no point in redirecting commerce elsewhere. There's no solution. Everyone's feeling this." The traffic congestion comes as a growing number of families from Central America have been arriving at the border in recent months, overwhelming the federal government. So far, the administration has reassigned 541 border inspectors to other jobs, including processing migrants, providing transportation and performing hospital watch for migrants who require medical attention. It is unknown when they will return to their regular duties.

Border inspectors, who are trained to screen people and cargo for smuggling, are now serving as aides to Border Patrol agents, learning data entry for asylum-seeker paperwork and shuttling migrants to hospitals, shelters and transportation hubs. □

Heavy rains cause floods, kill at least 10 in Rio de Janeiro

By DIANE JEANTET
RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Heavy rains killed at least 10 people and left a trail of destruction in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday, raising questions about the city's preparedness to deal with recurring extreme weather. Torrents of water gushed down streets, sweeping up cars and uprooting trees after rains that began around rush hour Monday evening. Rains slowly weakened by Tuesday evening, but Mayor Marcelo Crivella said the city was still in "crisis" mode, the highest of three levels. Schools were closed and people urged to avoid non-essential traffic until further notice.



A relative of missing persons is comforted by a friend at a site where rescue workers search for victims after heavy rains in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

Associated Press

City officials said 6 inches (152 millimeters) of rain fell in just four hours Monday night, more than the average for the whole month of April. The botanical garden neighborhood, a tourist destination, was one of the most badly hit areas, receiving 9 inches (231 mil-

limeters) in a 24-hour period. Local television stations showed firefighters in that neighborhood wading through knee-deep water pulling a small boatload of children evacuated from

a schoolbus on a flooded street. Sirens sounded in 20 flood-prone areas of the city, alerting people to make their way to pre-established safe spaces.

But no alarm was given in the Babilonia slum, which sits on a hill behind the iconic Sugarloaf mountain. The fire department said two women there died in a mudslide, and local resi-

dents complained about the lack of warning. The mayor, acknowledging the city's lack of preparedness for the deluge, said sirens did not sound in Babilonia because the water had not reached the minimum threshold to activate the alarms. He said officials would look into lowering this threshold in the future. Hillside slums are particularly vulnerable to mudslides and city officials said more than 100 communities in Rio have been identified as having "high geological risks." Crivella said Rio has plans to improve safety, but complained of a lack of federal funding. The mayor said a recent study carried out by the city identified about 200,000 road potholes and rainwater networks that needed fixing. "We're talking about hundreds of millions" of reals, the mayor said on Globo TV news, pressing President Jair Bolsonaro for more federal funding. □

LOCAL



Joost Meijs appointed as CEO of Queen Beatrix International Airport Aruba

ORANJESTAD - Joost Meijs, CEO of Eindhoven Airport, will start on 1 September 2019 for the Royal Schiphol Group as the CEO of the Queen Beatrix International Airport in Aruba; succeeding James Fazio, who has served as the airport's CEO since 2014. Mr. Meijs will be responsible for the development of management and the organization, maintaining contacts with external stakeholders, and will oversee the airport's redevelopment, as it starts a significant 5-year capital investment and construction program with a value of 300 million USD. The Supervisory Board of Eindhoven Airport will be considering its succession plan in the coming period.

On his departure, Meijs will have worked at Eindhoven Airport for 13 years. He started on 1 March 2006 as Director of Commercial Services & PR. After a brief period as Deputy Director, he became General Manager / CEO of the airport on October 1, 2008.

During his career at Eindhoven Airport, the airport has evolved from more than 1 million passengers in 2006 to, forecasted, more than 6.5 million passengers in 2019. The second airport in the Netherlands offers direct connections to more than 80 destinations within and outside Europe.

In terms of infrastructure, the airport had considerably expanded. In 2013, a hotel (owned by Eindhoven Airport) and an extension of the land and air terminal were delivered. An entirely new baggage hall was opened in 2016. As part of the construction of the Eindhoven Airport Boulevard, expected to be completed in 2020, the rebuilt parking garage will be opened in October.

After a period of rapid quantitative growth, the airport announced at the end of 2018 a change of course towards more quality-oriented development. This strategy is aimed at ensuring that Eindhoven Airport makes a significant contribution to a sustainable society in the next ten years that is in line with regional Brainport developments.

Joost Meijs: "I am extremely proud of the collective achievements of the team which ensured the suc-



cess of Eindhoven Airport. I was very happy to lead this airport where public and private parties come together. Bringing together apparently opposing interests as closely as possible, has greatly inspired me from start to finish. At the same time, I look forward to contribute to new successes of the international airport of Aruba and I am really impressed by all that has been achieved so far by James Fazio and his team."

Jabine van der Meijs, CFO of Royal Schiphol Group: "Under the leadership of Joost Meijs, Eindhoven Airport grew into a strong and fully-fledged airport - after Schiphol the 2nd airport in the Netherlands - which is of great value both in the region and within the wider Royal Schiphol Group. Joost's broad knowledge and experience will be a valuable addition to the further development of Queen Beatrix International Airport Aruba. We wish him every success in this."

Queen Beatrix International Airport in Aruba is operated and managed by Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA). AAA has had a successful strategic partnership with

Royal Schiphol Group for the past 15 years and its current CEO, Mr. James Fazio, recently announced his personal decision to leave the position as CEO of AAA effective at the end of his current employment agreement; which is August 31st, 2019.

Mr. Fazio has worked for Royal Schiphol Group for the past 22 years, having started in 1997 as part of the team which privatized, developed, and thereafter, operated JFK's Terminal 4, and has most recently served as Aruba Airport's CEO for the past 5 years. Prior his time with Schiphol Mr. Fazio was employed for 12 years for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, where he served in several supervisory positions in airport operations. During his time in Aruba, among other accomplishments, he has provided the leadership and guidance for the airport's Gateway 2030 expansion project, and led the organization through the most profitable years in the airport's history. Mr. Fazio commented on the timing of the decision: "The airport is transitioning from the planning to the con-

struction phase of the Gateway 2030 project, which required the difficult decision as to whether or not to stay another 5 years, and based on personal reasons, I have chosen to resume my career back in New York. Royal Schiphol Group has now identified my successor in the person of Mr. Joost Meijs.

This has been a carefully planned transition, which will allow for a 4 to 5 month hand-over, and properly prepare Mr. Meijs for the upcoming construction project and the leadership role of the airport."

"I want to emphasize that I very much enjoyed my time in Aruba and I feel honored to have been trusted to lead Aruba's national airport for the past 5 years, and I will continue to be 100% committed to AAA during the my remaining time here; as we still have several important project-related milestones to cross in the coming months."

AAA thanks Mr. Fazio for his efforts to further develop the growing airport and wishes Mr. Fazio all the best in his next career goals and welcomes Mr. Joost Meijs to the AAA team. □

Marine Mingle

SAVANETA — Defense on Aruba is the responsibility of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Netherlands Military forces that protect Aruba include the Royal Netherlands Navy, the Netherlands Marine Corps and the Netherlands Coastguard. There is also a small indigenous "Arubaanse Militie" (ARUMIL) of about platoon strength. All forces are stationed at Marines Barracks Savaneta.

Here are some activities that have been happening lately with the marines.

Zr. Ms. Pelikaan battleship is ready to continue its operation

After conducting a routine maintenance check, the Dutch Marine battleship Zr.Ms. Pelikaan is ready to continue its daily operation. Inspection is an essential part whenever a battle ship undergoes a maintenance procedure. The ship and its crew must show that the equipment is working properly and complies with the safety standards in case of any calamity such as a fire or a collision on sea. Drills, such as rescue training, equipment failure, towing exercises in partnership with the Battleship Zr. Ms. Zeeland, were also conducted in order to test the ability of the



crew. The Pelikaan is now in Bonaire and will be parting shortly towards the islands of St. Vincent & Grenadines to strengthen the diplomatic ties in the eastern Caribbean.

Ombudsman pays a visit to the military of Aruba and Curacao

Civilians are able to send complaints about the government to the ombudsman, Reinier van Zutphen. The military and the veterans are also able to approach him which is something that many don't know. Due to this, van Zutphen decided to pay a visit to the military of the Caribbean Defense region. The National Ombudsman started his visit in Aruba at the Dutch Marine Base Savaneta. Here, he got an impression on the daily life and work of the marines and the Aruban military. He also got to know the Caribbean Coastguard, the Maritime Partner of the Dutch Marine.

Afterwards a delegation consisting of the National Ombudsman, coordinator of the Dutch Caribbean, Veteran Ombudsman Coordinator and Defense, and the Ombudsman of Curacao left to Curacao to visit the Marine Base Parera. Here they met with, Commander in Chief of the Caribbean Region Brigadier General, Peter Jan de Vin. During their visit the delegation received a complete presentation on the Defense & Coastguard of the Caribbean Region.

Happy readers at Kibrahacha

Kibrahacha, the organization for the senior citizens in Aruba, which has been funded many years ago received a very particular gift from



the Dutch Marines of Savaneta. The bookstore at the military base called "Toko" updates its book collection for the marines and their families every year. These old books that are in a good condition will be donated to an organization. Seeing that the seniors of Kibrahacha are fervent readers, they were chosen to receive this wonderful collection of books. The book collection was handed over by Leon Berenos and Chaplain Frank Kamp to the director of Kibrahacha, Jeffrey Matos. □



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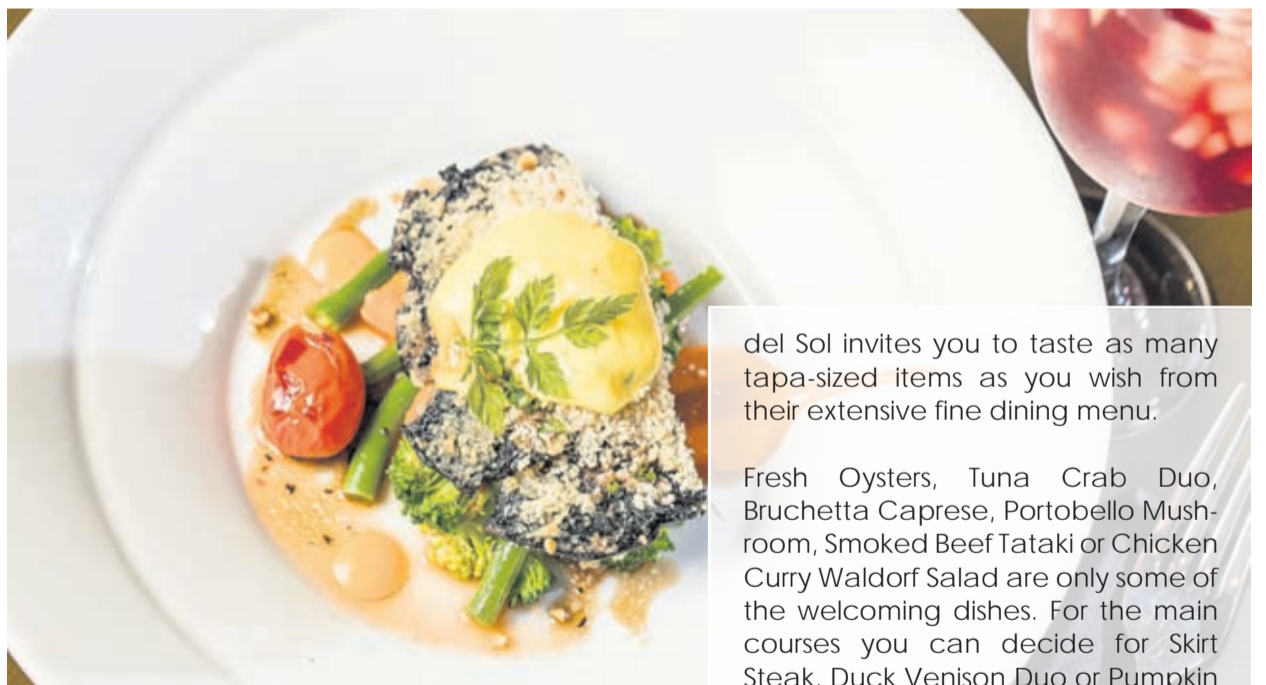
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del Sol invites you to taste as many tapa-sized items as you wish from their extensive fine dining menu.

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Beloved Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort General Manager Gerrit Griffith Retiring

"Mr. G" will retire in September after a 43-year career with Divi Resorts



ARUBA – After more than 7 years as the General Manager of Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort and 43 years working for Divi Resorts, Gerrit Griffith announced his intention to retire this September to spend quality time with his family.

"Griffith, or Mr. G, as he's fondly known by everyone, has been a respected leader in the Caribbean hospitality industry and a driving force behind the success of Divi Aruba Phoenix," said Marco Galaverna, Divi Resorts President & COO. "We're very sad to see him retire and we will dearly miss his beaming smile, positive attitude and daily interaction with both guests and staff." A Curacao native, Griffith graduated with a degree from Cornell University's School of Hotel Management in 1974. In 1976, after working as a management trainee for Intercontinental Hotels in Aruba, Griffith was hired by Divi Resorts as the Assistant General Manager of the Tamarijn Beach Resort, now called the Tama-

rijn All-Inclusive Beach Resort, which at the time had around 75 rooms and was under further expansion.

"At the Tamarijn, I worked my way up to the General Manager's position and then transferred next door to what's now known as the Divi Aruba All-Inclusive Resort. After that, I was involved in the early construction phase and was the General Manager of Divi Dutch Village Beach Resort and then Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort, which later added The Links at Divi Aruba golf course and the Golf Villas."

Griffith also worked with Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino on Bonaire, Divi Little Bay Beach Resort on St. Maarten and Divi Southwinds Beach Resort on Barbados before accepting the position of General Manager at Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort.

"I have truly enjoyed the opportunity to create an atmosphere where management and associates can bond with our Divi Vacation Club members, Divi Timeshare owners and guests while ensuring the highest level of personal service. It's a unique trademark of Divi Resorts," said Griffith. "I'm very proud of the strong and dedicated team we've built and the improvements we've made to take Phoenix to the next level, all done with the aim to enhance customer satisfaction."

Griffith says what he'll miss most is the personal relationships he's developed with employees, guests and timeshare members and owners over the years. As for the future, he says he looks



forward to spending more quality time with his family and precious granddaughter and having the time to travel with his youngest son.

About Divi Resorts

Divi Resorts is the vacation expert of the Caribbean, with a collection of eight premium resorts spanning the five stunning Caribbean islands of Aruba, Barbados, Bonaire, St. Croix, and St. Maarten. For more information on Divi Resorts, call 1-800-367-3484 or visit www.diviresorts.com.

Aruba to Me

ORANJESTAD – We would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island. Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. □

For today's newspaper we received 1 great picture from

Deborah George. She wrote to us:

Aruba to us is..... Peace and Tranquility, but mostly it is time with family

My in-laws have been coming here for close to 20 Years. They have brought us and their grandchildren for many of those years. It is memories created for us. Time together. I always feel very blessed when I leave here.





A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba

Wednesday 10 Win a Super Car

- Take a break and get ready to play! Try your luck and who knows you might walk out with a Ferrari 488 SPIDER!!
- 24 hours open
- The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton Aruba
- Facebook: The Casino at the Ritz-Carlton, Aruba



Sunday 14 Walk for Paws

- Come walk with your dog while doing good for the community. Raising money for the Aruba Animal Shelter Foundation.
- From 4:30PM-6:30PM
- Fisherman's Hut, Noord
- Facebook: Walk for Paws 2019

Thursday 11

MITICO- Opening art exhibition

- Opening exhibition MITICO, with art works from participants of the workshops Carpetologia and What a Plastic. With Dj Adriano Nanof and artists Lyobov Matyunina, Konstantin Guz and Margherita Soldati.
- From 8:00 PM
- Dominicanessenstraat 34, oranjestad
- Facebook: Atelier's 89



Friday 12 Discover Local Art

- Every Friday Night the Renaissance Marketplace transforms into a local art exhibition where you can see, touch or buy art pieces locally made by local artisans. Start your weekend with many dining options, Live musical entertainment, movie premieres and many more. The perfect way to relax and enjoy life.
- From 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- Renaissance Marketplace
- Facebook: Renaissance Marketpalce



Monday 15 Carnival Night at Eagle Aruba

- Dance the night away with live steel pan music and a spectacular carnival show. Experience some delicious local dishes and take home hand crafted artifacts.
- From 6:00 PM-8:00 PM
- Eagle Aruba Resort Courtyard
- Facebook Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino



Saturday 13 12 Hours of Aruba~ Cross country cycling

- The 2019 edition of the 12 Hours of Aruba event will be held at the Alto Vista Chapel on
- Participants from Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire and the Netherlands join this mountain bike event, it is one of the biggest bike events in the region. Key words during our event are teamwork, camaraderie, fun and an unforgettable experience for all levels of participants and supporters.

- New this year: - kids race in the morning - 6 Hours race and of course the famous 12 Hours race.
- From 7:30 AM
 - AltoVista Chapel
 - Facebook: 12 Hours of Aruba



Tuesday 16 Bon Bini festival

- Experience Aruba's culture and go back in time to the Old Aruba at this folkloric event.
- From 7:00 PM-8:30 PM
- Historical Museum of Aruba: Fort Zoutman
- Facebook: Bon Bini Festival Aruba

SPORTS



NHL suspends Voynov for 2019-20 season for domestic violence

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Hockey Writer

The NHL suspended defenseman Slava Voynov on Tuesday for the 2019-20 season and 2020 playoffs after determining he committed acts of domestic violence.

Commissioner Gary Bettman suspended Voynov for what the league called unacceptable off-ice conduct. The 29-year-old Russian could have his eligibility restored on July 1, 2020, based on good behavior. Voynov was suspended indefinitely in October 2014 after being arrested and accused of domestic abuse of his wife. He pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor, left the United States to go back to Russia and in July had the conviction dismissed by a judge in Los Angeles.

After playing three seasons in Russia's Kontinental Hockey League and winning a gold medal at the 2018 Olympics without NHL players, Voynov moved back to the U.S. and was applying to be reinstated by the NHL. Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly in August said Voynov's return would be contingent on completing a process with the league to review his case. The NHL did an investigation and held a hearing March 21 under the terms of the collective-bargaining agreement regarding the Oct. 19, 2014, incident involving Voynov and his wife.

Continued on Page 22

COMEBACK KIDS



Virginia gets its title after a year of pain

Virginia players celebrate with the trophy after defeating Texas Tech 85-77 in the championship game in the Final Four NCAA college basketball tournament, Monday, April 8, 2019, in Minneapolis.

Can Tiger Woods still win the Masters at 43?

By TIM DAHLBERG

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Tiger Woods had the putting green pretty much to himself as storms approached Augusta National on Monday. As a handful of fans lingered to watch, he stroked the 5-footers that always seemed to go in during his prime.

It's been 14 years since enough went in to win on the fabled greens of Augusta National. Even more startling, it's been 11 years since Woods won a major of any kind.

His believers — and there are legions of them — are hopeful that might change this week, if only because optimism is always at its peak before the first tee shot is hit. The old Tiger may not be fully back, but the prevailing thought is there's enough of his greatness left to fit comfortably inside a green jacket come late Sunday afternoon.

Count Woods among the believers.

"I know I can play this golf course," he said. "I've had some success here."

Indeed he has, with four green jackets stitched with his name. That's a haul that by itself qualifies him as one of the greatest players ever, though it is two short of the collection won by Jack Nicklaus.

But it isn't what Woods or anyone else expected after he won his first four in just nine years. Nicklaus himself predicted that Woods would win 10 green jackets on his way to obliterating Nicklaus' record of 18 major championships.

The reasons Woods hasn't, of course, have been well documented over the years. But a victory in the Tour Championship last year not only showed he can still compete and win at the highest level but gave Woods some sorely needed confidence heading into the first major of the year.

"I think that winning at (the Tour Championship) confirmed to me that I could still win again," Woods said. "You have to do it first in order to truly understand that you can do it."

Indeed, whether he can do it at the place he first put his stamp on the game with a runaway victory at the age of 21 remains a question that Woods probably can't answer until he's done it.

He's 43 now, something that comes into focus when he removes his hat and his bald spot seems bigger than ever. That's ancient in most sports but not terribly out of place in a tournament Nicklaus won at the age of 46 in 1986.

As if to prove it wasn't a fluke, Nicklaus was contending for the lead on the weekend a dozen years later before settling for sixth place, a feat that was almost as remarkable as his sixth win.

Augusta National has changed since, lengthened first to make it Tiger-proof and then again when the green jackets running the place realized the new generation of players can all bomb the ball incredible distances.

But it still rewards those with a great short game and those who can putt the slippery greens under pressure. And that remains problematic for Woods, last seen on national television missing a short putt to lose to little-known Lucas Bjerregaard with a berth in the semifinals of the Dell Technologies Match Play tournament last month.

"I feel I can still putt," Woods said. "The hardest part is I just can't practice like I used to. My back gets sore."

Wear and tear is an issue for any older athlete, and Woods is no exception. Though finally able to swing freely after back surgery, he says he can't put the kind of time in on any part of his game that he once did.

But on Tuesday, he was at his usual spot at the end of the driving range, working his way through every club in the bag. He took his time between shots, and at one point put his club down and went to talk to Kevin Kisner a few spots away and then to look at Bryson DeChambeau hit shots with his single length irons.

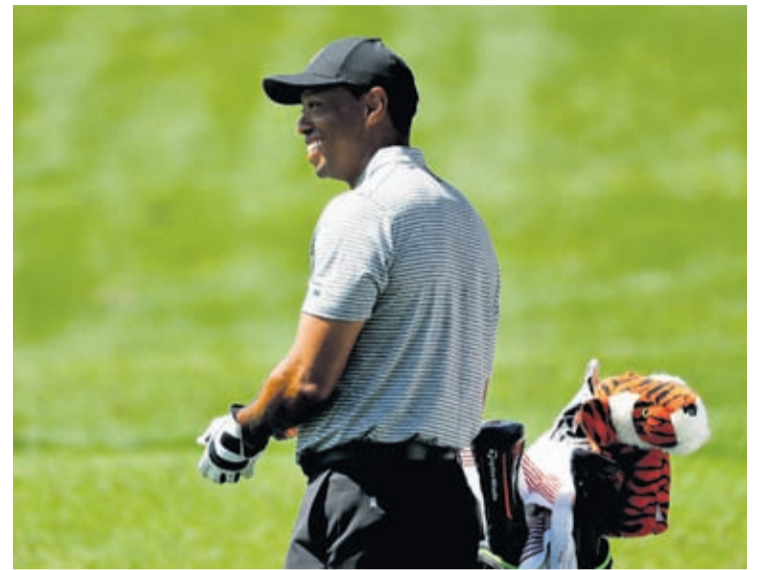
Woods shares a prime late-

morning tee time on Thursday, playing with Spain's John Rahm and China's Haotong Li, both of whom were a year old when Woods won his first pro tournament in Las Vegas in 1996.

With age, though, comes wisdom. And as Nicklaus showed in his late career performances, knowing where to play shots and where to miss them at Augusta National is half the puzzle of winning.

"I've got a pretty good little library in my head of how to play the course," Woods said.

That library will be open for business as Woods begins play in his 22nd Masters. He's not the favorite — Rory McIlroy has that honor — but he's in a group of play-



Tiger Woods smiles on the driving range at the Masters golf tournament Tuesday, April 9, 2019, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

ers who are among the favorites.

Can he win? Of course, because even at 43 he's still got plenty of game to

compete.

Will he win?

Well, there's a reason he's been spending a lot of time practicing 5-footers. □

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Comeback Cavs! A year after pain, Virginia gets its title

By EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — It was an easy question to ask, even if the answer was tough to absorb.

"Why?"

It dogged Virginia for a year and three weeks — following the Cavaliers through sweat-soaked practices, hostile arenas up and down the East Coast, on talk radio and pundit-driven TV, and in their own, doubt-filled, uncertain minds.

The only truly satisfying answer to "Why?" came Monday night — and with the confetti falling and the nets dangling around their necks, it all seemed so clear.

That humbling, history-making loss last season to Maryland-Baltimore County happened so the Cavaliers could stand at center court and celebrate this time around.

The only top seed to fall to a No. 16 in the history of the NCAA Tournament is now the only team to come back from such a loss and win a championship the very next season. Virginia did it the hard way, squandering a 10-point lead against a tenacious Texas Tech team, only to pull away for an 85-77 victory in overtime.

And now, there are no more questions.

"We've all had our own battles," said Virginia guard Kyle Guy, who was named the Final Four's most valu-



Virginia players celebrate after the championship game against Texas Tech in the Final Four NCAA college basketball tournament, Monday, April 8, 2019, in Minneapolis. Virginia won 85-77 in overtime

able player. "I said earlier, it's a really special group because we all had the same 'Why?' among other 'whys.' But to share the same one, and to battle everything we battled through, and come out on top, it's a fantastic feeling." It's tempting to call Virginia a team of destiny, but that would undermine what the Cavaliers accomplished this season. It would give short shrift to the way they overcame so many close calls in this tournament, including an entertaining, back-and-forth final against an opponent that

simply would not go away. Lottery-pick-in-waiting De'Andre Hunter scored a career-high 27 points after starting the game 0 for 7 from the floor. Going mano-a-mano against another likely NBA-bound star, Jarrett Culver, Hunter saved the Cavaliers (35-3) with a game-tying 3 with 12 seconds left in regulation, then helped them win it with a go-ahead 3 with 2:07 left in the overtime. Hunter's game-tying shot came on a play that Texas Tech doesn't usually allow: Ty Jerome dribbled into the middle, then skipped

a pass down the baseline to Hunter, who spotted up from the corner. The nation's best defense hardly ever leaves someone that wide-open.

"With a 3-point lead ... we're trying to play really sound defense with three objectives: No 3-point shots, no 'and-ones,' and we've got to secure the defensive rebounds," Texas Tech coach Chris Beard said. "We just came up a little bit short, but give Virginia credit. They have a really, really good team. So much poise, and just have a lot of respect for them."

The poise showed up earlier in the tournament, too. First, when the Cavaliers, a 1 seed again, fell behind by 14 early to No. 16 Gardner-Webb in what seemed like a repeat of the nightmare from the year before. They won 71-56.

Next, against Purdue, when, trailing by 2, the Cav-

aliers intentionally missed a free throw, got the ball back and fed to Mamadi Diakite, who beat the buzzer to send the game into overtime.

They won 80-75.

And then in the semifinal Saturday against Auburn, when Guy got fouled while shooting a 3 with 0.6 seconds left, and calmly sank all three free throws. They won 63-62.

"I hope that it's a message for some people out there that there can be hope and joy and resiliency," said Virginia coach Tony Bennett, whose father Dick, the coach who wrote the book on stifling man-to-man defense, was in the crowd. "I'm thankful for what happened."

All Virginia fans are.

This is a program that has lived a tortured existence, starting around Christmas-time in 1982, when 7-foot-4 Ralph Sampson — as good as they came back in his day — was headlining the top-ranked Cavaliers on a stopover trip in Hawaii, only to get shocked by tiny, NAIA Chaminade. It still goes down as one of the greatest upsets in sports.

Thirty years later, Bennett turned the Cavaliers into contenders again, but they always underachieved once the calendar turned to March.

Then, last year.

That loss to UMBC could've wrecked a lesser program. Somehow, this one got stronger.

Has the pain gone completely away?

"You have a scar, and it reminds you of that, but it's a memory," Bennett said. "Does it go away completely? No. I wish it wouldn't have happened in some ways. But now I say, 'Well, it bought us a ticket here. So be it.'"

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Empty seats at Bristol expose NASCAR attendance challenges

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

BRISTOL, Tenn. (AP) — Appalled by so many empty seats at Bristol Motor Speedway, Clint Bowyer did some digging and learned what race fans have known for more than a decade.

Hotels along the Tennessee-Virginia line near the iconic NASCAR track have pushed one of the most popular venues on the circuit beyond the budget of the average attendee. Bowyer made a handful of calls and said he was outraged to discover lower-end lodging starting at more than \$300 a night.

"I was so glad Clint brought that up," said Marcus Smith, president and CEO of Bristol's parent company Speedway Motorports Inc. "It's a crazy number some of these hotels are charging and it's just unfortunate. We continue to work with the business bureaus at all of our speedways and it is a challenge we are trying to find solutions to while working with the local business leaders."

Bristol was once the toughest ticket to get in NASCAR and boasted 55 consecutive sellouts from 1982 through 2010. The track only accommodated

30,000 fans when the streak began and expansions began in earnest when SMI bought the track in 1996.

The Coliseum-style structure now holds 146,000, but the crowd size has shrunk so much over the years that Bristol last weekend did not even sell tickets in the turns. Closed sections included the Darrell Waltrip Grandstand on the same weekend the Hall of Famer and all-time winningest driver at Bristol was feted for his upcoming retirement from broadcasting.

The swaths of empty seats — NASCAR and its tracks do not release attendance figures — made for unpleasant optics Sunday during the Cup race, arguably the best race of the season so far.

It featured 21 lead changes, late pit strategy played a role in the outcome and Kyle Busch won again. Many drivers had compelling races, including Brad Keselowski, who lost his shot at the win when he was black-flagged before the final restart for not following a NASCAR directive. Kevin Harvick came from four laps down to finish 13th on a day his team was punished for failing pre-race inspection three times, and



Kyle Busch (18) leads his brother Kurt Busch in the final laps of the NASCAR Cup Series auto race Sunday, April 7, 2019, at Bristol Motor Speedway in Bristol, Tenn.

Associated Press

Kurt Busch continued to shine as the most consistent driver in the winless Chevrolet camp.

Smith acknowledged the challenges in selling tickets in this current NASCAR climate. Venues doubled and tripled their seating capacity during NASCAR's late 1990s boom and more tracks were built and added to a 10-month schedule. Oversaturation became a problem and NASCAR and its most loyal fans were among those hit hardest by the 2008 economic collapse. The quality of racing deteriorated, too, and fans

stopped coming.

Smith can offer alternatives to the high hotel rates with on-site camping packages; a group can rent a recreational vehicle for the weekend for the same price as booking a single room at most of the local hotels.

Bristol's spring race has also bounced around various March and April dates, and weather is often iffy enough to keep some fans at home. Sunday's race was moved up eight minutes in anticipation of late-day rain, and last year's event was pushed to Monday.

Smith is adamant the easiest promotion is a strong on-track product and the Bristol event was proof that fans can still catch a good show.

"The most important element is great racing and the racing we had at Bristol will sell more tickets will draw more eyeballs," Smith said. "That is the essential component, the essential ingredient for a successful NASCAR event and a successful Bristol event. I think the key for a resurgence in NASCAR is what we saw at Bristol and that's great competition." □

U.S. women rout Russia 10-0 to wrap pool play at worlds

ESPOO, Finland (AP) — Kendall Coyne Schofield and Lee Stecklein scored two goals each, and the United States routed Russia 10-0 Tuesday in the final game of the preliminary round at the women's world championship.

Annie Pankowski had three assists, and Alex Carpenter added two as 15 Americans had at least a point. The United States wrapped up pool play undefeated for a fourth straight world championship.

The U.S. will play Japan, a 3-2 winner over Sweden, in the quarterfinals Thursday. The Americans, the reigning Olympic champs, have

won four straight world titles and seven of the last eight.

"We were excited to see so many players getting involved tonight, especially our defenders, who have had a tremendous impact so far in this tournament," U.S. coach Bob Corkum said. "While we will enjoy this victory tonight, we know we have our work cut out for us as we head into the playoff round and we'll be ready for the next challenge."

Amanda Kessel scored the first goal a couple minutes in, Cayla Barnes followed at 13:44 and Coyne Schofield stole the puck and

scored 17 seconds later as the U.S. took a 3-0 lead in the first period.

Stecklein scored her first goal in IIHF tournament play at 8:18 of the second, making it 5-0. That forced Russian goalie Valeria Merkusheva to the bench with Anna Prugova replacing her in net. The U.S. wound up with four goals in the second and added three more in the third. Alex Rigsby made 12 saves for her third win in this tournament.

Canada beat Finland 6-1 to finish second in Group A with both teams 2-1-0. Loren Gabel scored two goals and had an assist



Team USA celebrates their seventh goal by Kendall Coyne Schofield, center, during the IIHF Women's Ice Hockey World Championships Group A match between the USA and Russia in Espoo, Finland, Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

Associated Press

as the Canadians chased Gabel's second goal at 15:35 of the second. Raty gave up three goals on 30 shots. Canadian goalie Shannon Szabados made 22 saves to improve to 17-0 all-time against Finland.

The Czech Republic downed Germany 2-0 to finish atop Group B in the final games of the preliminary round.

Canada will play Germany and Finland will play the Czech Republic in the quarterfinals. □

Davis sets record at 0 for 49, including warning track shot

BALTIMORE (AP) — Chris Davis went 0 for 5 to set a major league record for the longest hitless streak by a position player, extending his drought to 49 consecutive at-bats in Baltimore's rout of Oakland.

Davis hit three flyballs before striking out in the seventh and eighth innings, leaving him 0 for 28 this season and 0 for 49 since hitting a double early in a game Sept. 14. The previous longest drought by a non-pitcher was 46 at-bats, by Los Angeles Dodgers infielder Eugenio Vélez.

Jonathan Villar homered and had four RBIs, Trey Mancini went 3 for 3 with a homer, Cedric Mullins hit two triples and drove in three runs and rookie shortstop Richie Martin's first multiple-hit game included a triple and a pair of singles. Still seeking his first victory with Oakland, Marco Estrada (0-1) gave up six runs in four innings.

Andrew Cashner (2-1) allowed three earned runs in 5 1/3 innings to help Baltimore snap a four-game losing streak.

ASTROS 4, YANKEES 3

HOUSTON (AP) — Jose Altuve hit a long home run and Carlos Correa's bro-



Baltimore Orioles' Chris Davis reacts after he lined out during the third inning of a baseball game against the Oakland Athletics, Monday, April 8, 2019, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

ken-bat RBI infield single in the eighth inning helped Houston rally past New York for its fourth straight victory. Aaron Judge homered off Astros ace Justin Verlander as New York built a 3-1 lead in a matchup between AL powerhouses. Robinson Chirinos tied it with a two-run double in the seventh against Zack Britton. The game was tied with one out in the eighth when Adam Ottavino (1-1) walked Alex

Bregman before a single by Michael Brantley sent Bregman to third. Correa then shattered his bat on a grounder that dribbled down the first base line, allowing Bregman to score. Ryan Pressly (1-0) extended his scoreless streak to 22 1/3 innings with a perfect eighth to get the win and Roberto Osuna pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his third save.

ANGELS 5, BREWERS 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) —

Mike Trout made a leaping catch to steal a potential homer from Christian Yelich, and Los Angeles beat Milwaukee for its fourth straight victory.

Tommy La Stella and Justin Bour each hit a two-run homer. Andrelton Simmons also went deep and Trevor Cahill (1-1) pitched six strong innings in his home debut for the Angels, who have rebounded from a 1-6 start to the season.

Trout's personal streak of four consecutive games with a homer ended when he went 0 for 2 with two walks, but the Angels superstar jumped high on the warning track to take away an extra-base hit from Yelich, his fellow MVP. Mike Moustakas hit his 150th career homer in the Brewers' first game at Angel Stadium since June 16, 2010. Jhoulys Chacin (2-1) pitched three-hit ball into the seventh inning but took the loss.

MARINERS 13, ROYALS 5

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Edwin Encarnacion homered twice during an eight-run sixth inning, two of five homers for hot-hitting Seattle against Kansas City.

Daniel Vogelbach, Jay Bruce and Dylan Moore also connected for the Mariners. They have scored five or more runs in 11 of their first 12 games and have 32 homers in that span, the most by one team a dozen games into a season.

Encarnacion became the first Mariners player to go deep twice in an inning since Bret Boone and Mike Cameron both did it May 2, 2002, against the White Sox. Cameron tied a major league record with four homers in that game. □

VOYNOV

Continued from Page 18

Bettman said he determined after that investigation and hearing that Voynov engaged in acts of domestic violence.

"Today's ruling, while tailored to the specific facts of this case and the individuals involved, is necessary and consistent with the NHL's strongly-held policy that it cannot and will not tolerate this and similar types of conduct, particularly as directed at a spouse, domestic partner or family member," Bettman said.

The NHL does not have a defined domestic violence policy like other North American professional sports leagues and says it takes each incident on a case-by-case basis.

Major League Baseball has also taken a strong stance on domestic violence. Last



In this July 2, 2015, file photo, Los Angeles Kings' Slava Voynov enters Superior Court with his wife, Marta Varlamova, in Torrance, Calif.

Associated Press

year, San Diego pitcher Jose Torres was suspended 100 games and Toronto pitcher Roberto Osuna 75 games. Osuna was later

traded from the Blue Jays to Houston.

The National Football League has suspended Cleveland Browns running

back Kareem Hunt for the first eight games of the 2019 season due to violations of the personal conduct policy. Hunt was released last season by the Kansas City Chiefs after a video showed him kicking a woman. Another video came out later showing him in a fight at a resort.

The Los Angeles Kings, who terminated Voynov's \$25 million contract in 2015, said they are reviewing the NHL's decision and added, "It is premature for us to comment until we understand what today's decision, which can be appealed, means in its entirety." Though he is not under contract, the Kings have rights to Voynov associated with his status on the voluntary retired list.

A spokesman said the NHL Players' Association is reviewing the decision. Voynov's agent, Rolland

Hedges, did not immediately return a voicemail and text message seeking comment Tuesday.

Voynov has the right to appeal to a neutral arbitrator. If an appeal occurs, that arbitrator would have to be mutually agreed upon by the NHL and NHLPA.

Nashville forward Austin Watson was suspended 27 games in September for unacceptable off-ice conduct following an investigation and hearing after he pleaded no contest in July to a charge of domestic assault stemming from an incident in June. Arbitrator Shyam Das reduced the suspension to 18 games on appeal.

Voynov last played an NHL game on Oct. 19, 2014. He has 190 regular-season and 64 playoff games of experience, all with the Kings, and won the Stanley Cup with them in 2012 and 2014. □

Cubs rout Pirates 10-0 in home opener after Lester departs

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Kyle Schwarber hit a two-run homer and Chicago's beleaguered bullpen stepped up after Jon Lester departed with left hamstring tightness, leading the Cubs over the Pittsburgh Pirates 10-0 in their home opener on Monday.

Brad Brach, Brandon Kintzler, Randy Rosario and Pedro Strop combined for seven innings of four-hit ball after Lester was removed with two on and no outs in the third. Brach (1-0) pitched two innings for his first win with the Cubs.

Pittsburgh had won four in a row, but it hurt itself with four errors, including three by shortstop Kevin Newman. Jameson Taillon (0-2) was charged with six unearned runs and four hits in two innings.

PHILLIES 4, NATIONALS 3

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Rhys Hoskins hit two solo homers, Odubel Herrera hit a two-run shot and Philadelphia beat Washington.

Kurt Suzuki and Brian Dozier went deep for the Nationals.

Bryce Harper was 0 for 3



Chicago Cubs' Kyle Schwarber, right, and Javier Baez celebrate a home run by Schwarber against the Pittsburgh Pirates at Wrigley Field in Chicago on Monday, April 8, 2019.

Associated Press

with a walk in his third game against his former team but helped prevent a run with a perfect relay throw.

Phillies right-hander Vince Velasquez allowed two runs and four hits in five innings in his first start this season. Seranthony Dominguez (1-0) tossed a perfect sixth. Pat Neshek pitched out of trouble in the ninth for his first save.

Anibal Sanchez (0-1) gave up three runs and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings in his second

start against Philadelphia in five days.

CARDINALS 4, DODGERS 3
ST. LOUIS (AP) — Marcell Ozuna homered to back a solid start by Miles Mikolas, and St. Louis ended Los Angeles' five-game winning streak.

Mikolas (1-1) allowed three runs on five hits in six innings, working around three hit batters in the first five innings. He had never hit more than one batter in a game.

For the Dodgers, the loss could be painful because of another groin injury to starting pitcher Hyun-Jin Ryu, who left with two outs in the second inning.

St. Louis rallied with two runs in the seventh. Jose Martinez singled off Joe Kelly (1-2) to drive in Matt Carpenter, who had singled off Scott Alexander. Paul Goldschmidt later scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch by Kelly.

John Gant worked two

scoreless innings in relief and Jordan Hicks pitched the ninth for his second save.

PADRES 6, GIANTS 5

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Pinch-hitter Franmil Reyes connected for a go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh inning, and San Diego rallied from five down against Madison Bumgarner to beat San Francisco. Fernando Tatis Jr. also hit a two-run homer and Wil Myers had a solo shot for the Padres.

Kevin Pillar hit his first career grand slam but Bumgarner and the Giants' bullpen couldn't hold a 5-0 lead.

San Francisco's Gerardo Parra went down in the seventh after being hit in the face by a 93 mph fastball from Brad Wieck. Parra was eventually able to walk off holding a towel to his face. Bumgarner didn't allow a hit until Tatis' homer in the fifth. Tatis was twice hit by pitches from Bumgarner, including to start the seventh. Eric Lauer (2-1) struck out eight over six innings. He allowed four hits and five runs. Kirby Yates finished for his sixth save. □

Archer suspended for 5 games, Puig for 2, Bell for 1

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Pittsburgh pitcher Chris Archer was suspended for five games, Cincinnati outfielder Yasiel Puig for two and Reds manager David Bell for one on Tuesday for their parts in a bench-clearing fracas last weekend at PNC Park.

The commissioner's office said Archer has appealed his penalty and will play pending a decision.

Puig and Bell chose not to appeal. Puig will miss the first two games of a series against the Marlins in Cincinnati starting Tuesday night. Bench coach Freddie Benavides will manage the Reds in the first game. Chief Baseball Officer Joe Torre also fined all three for their behavior Sunday

in Pittsburgh, which was touched off when Cincinnati's Derek Dietrich stood in the batter's box to admire his long home run in the second inning.

Two innings later, Archer threw his first pitch behind Dietrich's waist. Plate umpire Jeff Kellogg warned both benches and Bell jogged from the dugout to the infield, arguing Archer should be ejected. Archer maintained he simply was off-target with an inside pitch.

Benches and bullpens emptied, and an enraged Puig barreled into a bunch of Pirates and was restrained by several teammates.

Bell interpreted Archer's suspension as confirmation that the pitch was purposely meant to hurt Dietrich.

Bell said Torre told him that Archer wasn't ejected by the umpires because he didn't throw at the batter's head.

"That to me is a very dangerous approach," Bell said. "As we know, even if they're aiming somewhere else, it could hit a hitter right in the head."

Bell wasn't surprised by his one-game suspension.

"I was suspended (because) things escalated when I came out," Bell said. "Clearly both benches cleared, which is unfortunate."

Puig declined to appeal his suspension because he thought it wouldn't make a difference. He wasn't satisfied with Archer getting a five-day suspension, which means the starter would



Cincinnati Reds' Yasiel Puig (66) is restrained by Pittsburgh Pirates bench coach Tom Prince, in the middle of a bench-clearing brawl during the fourth inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh, Sunday, April 7, 2019.

Associated Press

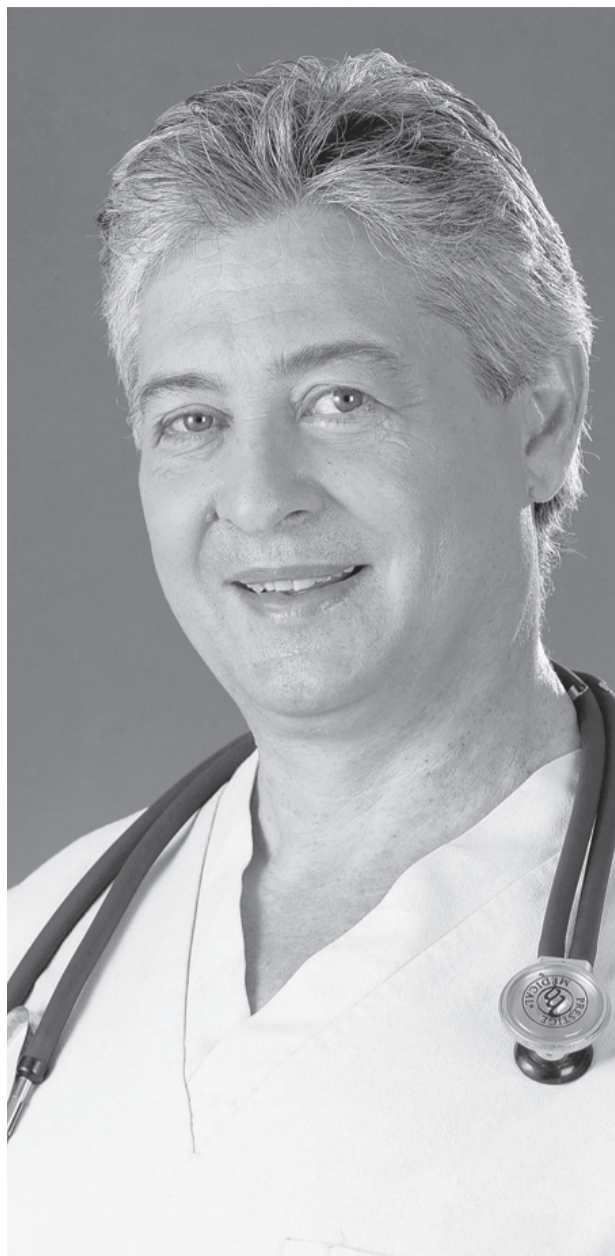
miss one appearance at most.

"The pitcher's going to be suspended for five days, that's not costing him nothing because no matter what he's going to rest for five days," Puig said. "It cost me two games."

Bell doesn't agree with the old-school practice of a

pitcher retaliating when they think a hitter has showed them up by lingering too long or doing something theatrical after hitting a home run.

"Major League Baseball needs to take this out of their hands if the players try to police it," Bell said. "That's a dangerous approach." q



Deteriorating junc Treating Blood Pressure Problems [hypertension]

the brain causes a stroke and in the heart blood vessels that are blocked or broken can cause a heart attack. When the largest artery in the body, the aorta, is torn or ruptured, traumatic aortic rupture is a life-threatening condition. Blood pressure problems should not be ignored and should instead, if possible, be treated with natural supplements.

Clinically, I have found that there are many reasons that produce high blood pressure, weak blood, or anemia, high cholesterol, pre-diabetes, stress, tight blood vessels or liver problems. Fortunately, we can treat many of the different reasons that develop hypertension with natural dietary supplements made from organic food. Low blood count reduces your blood's ability to carry oxygen through your body. To compensate, your heart starts beating faster and stronger. Blood pressure rises. The human body needs vitamin B12 to make red blood cells, nerves, DNA, and carry out other functions. The average adult should get 2.4 micrograms a day. Like most vitamins, B12 can't be made by the body. Instead, it must be gotten from food or supplements. In older people, B12 deficiency has been linked to dementia. This deficiency has also been linked to other neurodegenerative disorders such as multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease.

Individuals who experience even slightly reduced levels of vitamin B12 also tend to have elevated homocysteine levels. Homocysteine is an amino acid used normally by the body in making energy and making muscles. Elevated concentrations in the blood are thought to increase the risk for heart disease by damaging the lining of blood vessels and increasing the risk of blood clot formation. Always make sure you are taking a B complex with your B 12 or other B's. They work best together.

When I studied and worked as a Traditional Chinese Medical doctor in Shanghai one of our principle natural medicines was rice that had a yeast or fungus growing on the grains. The yeast called *Monascus purpureus*, turns the rice a red color. Called Red yeast rice, it has a long history of use as both a food and a medicine in China. Red yeast rice contains natural monacolin K, which has properties very similar to cholesterol-lowering prescription medications known as statins. Besides helping the liver con-

vert the cholesterol into a healthier bile, clinical tests have looked at the benefits of red yeast rice to treat other cardiovascular disorders, including hypertension, high blood pressure.

With low, weak blood or low blood sugar, hypoglycemia, the body tightens or constricts the blood vessels to increase oxygen and glucose movement. Constriction of the blood vessels is the body's way to raise the blood pressure. By narrowing the passage in the blood vessels, blood flows more slowly to the organs and the arms and legs. I prescribe Biotin supplementation to reduces systolic blood pressure by helping arteries be smoother and able to relax more. Mari Watanabe-Kamiyama reported in the British Journal of Nutrition that biotin has beneficial effects on hypertension and the frequency of stroke.

Biotin is one of the B complex vitamins that help the body convert food into energy.

The word biotin comes from the ancient Greek word "biotus," which means "life" or "sustenance." B vitamins, and specifically biotin, help keep your skin, hair, eyes, liver, and nervous system healthy. Biotin is also a crucial nutrient during pregnancy, as it's important for embryonic growth.

When a new patient has blood pressure of 140 over 90 or more, I do a blood test to check for Insulin resistance (pre-diabetes). The National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse reports high blood sugar contributes to high blood pressure. One of the proposed uses of the herb milk thistle is to lower blood sugar levels, which may ultimately cause a decrease in blood pressure. Mayo Clinic states animal and laboratory research found milk thistle may be capable of lowering high cholesterol levels. If this is true, milk thistle may help lower blood pressure by eliminating excessive cholesterol within the arteries. For centuries natural physicians have used milk thistle to help the liver detoxify.


Get the Point! Years ago, nutritionists would take your blood pressure, have you eat one food and check your blood pressure ten minutes later. If your blood pressure rose more than ten points, that food was considered to be intolerant, or not good for you. The food - blood pressure connection is well established. Thankfully, we can use natural food dietary supplements to help control our blood pressure naturally. □

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Hypertension, high blood pressure is a risk factor associated with heart attacks and strokes. Blood pressure readings involve two number, one above the other. The top number, which is also the higher of the two numbers, measures the pressure in the arteries when the heart beats, that is, when the heart muscle contracts. The top number is called the Systolic number. The bottom number, the Diastolic, which is also the lower of the two numbers, measures the pressure in the arteries between heartbeats (when the heart muscle is resting between beats and refilling with blood).

I consider abnormal blood pressure to be more than 140/90. Like an overinflated tire or balloon, that can rupture, a burst blood vessel in

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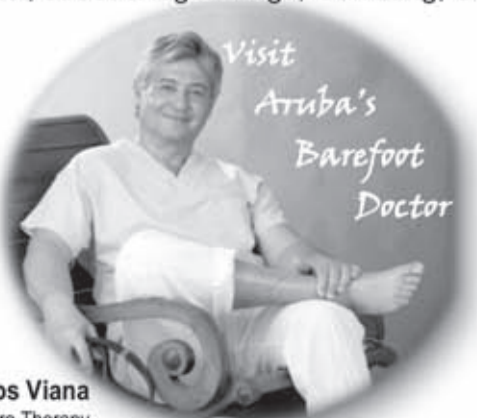
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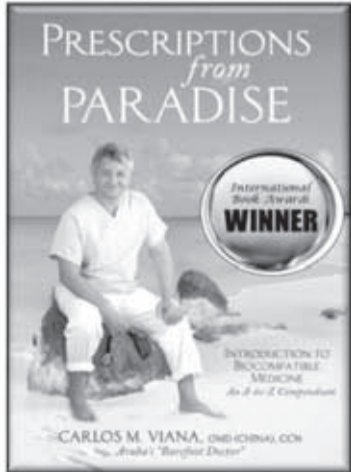


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How your tax refund could improve your credit

By BEV O'SHEA
Associated Press

Money can't buy you a good credit score, but you might be able to use your income tax refund strategically to polish your credit. How to go about it depends on where you are in your credit journey.

IF YOU'RE NEW TO CREDIT

If you're just starting out, you can use a tax refund to get a credit card designed for newbies. A secured credit card, as the name suggests, is guaranteed by money you deposit upfront. The amount you deposit is usually the credit limit you'll have. Use it lightly — don't charge any more than 30 percent of your credit limit — and pay it off monthly. That helps you build your credit history and score. Your deposit will be returned to you when you close the card or when you "graduate" to an unsecured card.

Another way to build a credit history is to deposit some of your refund in a bank or credit union and take out a loan against that amount. These are usually called secured loans. The money on deposit is collateral, and you essentially



This June 10, 2015, file photo shows chip credit cards in Philadelphia. Money can't buy you a good credit score, but you might be able to use your income tax refund strategically to polish your credit.

Associated Press

borrow from yourself at a low interest rate.

Credit scoring models reward you for having both revolving accounts (with variable payments, like a credit card) and installment accounts (level payments for a set time, like a car loan). You don't have to put down a large deposit to gain the benefit. But it's important to choose an

account that reports your payments to the three major credit bureaus, Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. Check with the card issuer or financial institution to make sure they will be.

IF YOU'VE MISSED PAYMENTS IN THE PAST TWO YEARS

Missed payments can devastate a credit score. Barry Paperno, a credit expert

who spent four decades working for Experian and scoring company FICO, says making sure every late account is brought current "has to be your first focus." Catching up on payments stops additional negative marks from piling up on your credit reports. Staying current and letting the missed payment recede into the past will help your

score recover.

If you have money left, consider using it to open other credit accounts. Paperno says scores look at the ratio of "good" accounts to "bad." So if you had two credit cards and a car loan, and you missed both a credit card payment and a car payment, you'd have two bad accounts to one good one.

Secured accounts give you opportunities to redeem yourself in creditors' eyes. By getting a secured credit card and a secured loan and paying both on time, you'd then have three good accounts to two bad, diluting the damage.

IF YOU HAVE CARDS WITH HIGH BALANCES

Whittling down or paying off a big credit card balance is as close as you will come to a miracle cure for an ailing credit score. The portion of your credit limit you're using, called credit utilization, is a huge factor in your score. Nothing counts more except paying on time. Paperno's advice: Aim to get each card below 30 percent of its credit limit, because utilization is calculated both overall and per card. □

US businesses' job openings fell sharply in February

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of available jobs in the U.S. fell sharply in February after nearly reaching a record level the previous month, a sign that businesses may pull back a bit on hiring.

The Labor Department said Tuesday that job openings dropped 7.1% to 7.1 million, the lowest level in nearly a year. The number of people quitting their jobs was nearly unchanged.

The figures suggest the job market is still solid but they also echo the mild slowdown in hiring that has occurred so far this year. Employers have added an average of 180,000 jobs a month in the first three months this year, down from nearly 225,000 last

year. Still, that level of hiring is enough to lower the unemployment rate, currently 3.8%, over time.

The tally of open jobs far outnumbers the 6.2 million people who were officially unemployed in February, a stark sign of employer demand. For the nearly 20 years that the data has been kept, the situation has typically been the reverse: there were more people seeking work than jobs available. But last spring job openings pulled ahead.

The job market's downshift appears to be following a similar path set by the economy. Growth reached 2.9% in 2018, the fastest in four years, but most economists expect growth to slow this year to between 2% and 2.5%.

Consumers have turned

cautious and reined in their spending, a sign that the impact of last year's tax cuts is fading. Home sales

dropped sharply in January but have since rebounded. The number of people quit-

ting their jobs stayed at 3.48 million, a figure that is nearly 10% higher than a year earlier. That is a good sign, The increase in the past year suggests that Americans are more confident about finding new work. □



In this March 7, 2019, file photo visitors to the Pittsburgh veterans job fair meet with recruiters at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

because most people quit their jobs to take a new, usually higher-paying one.



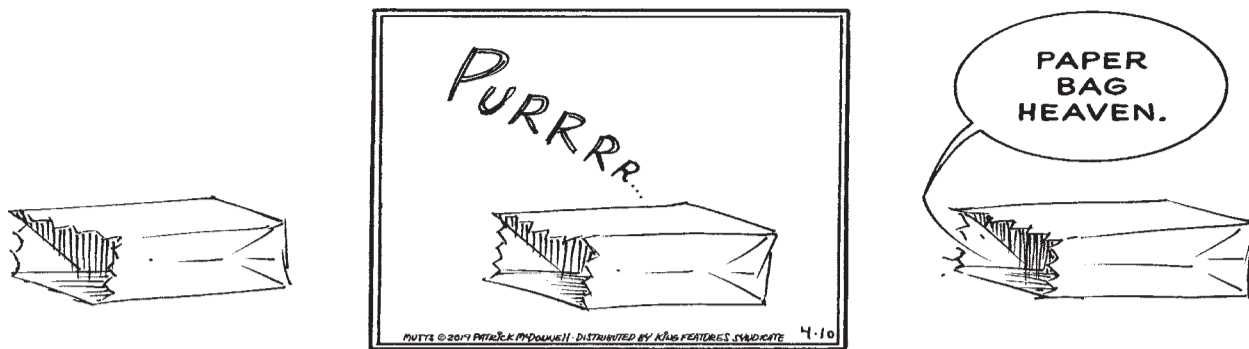
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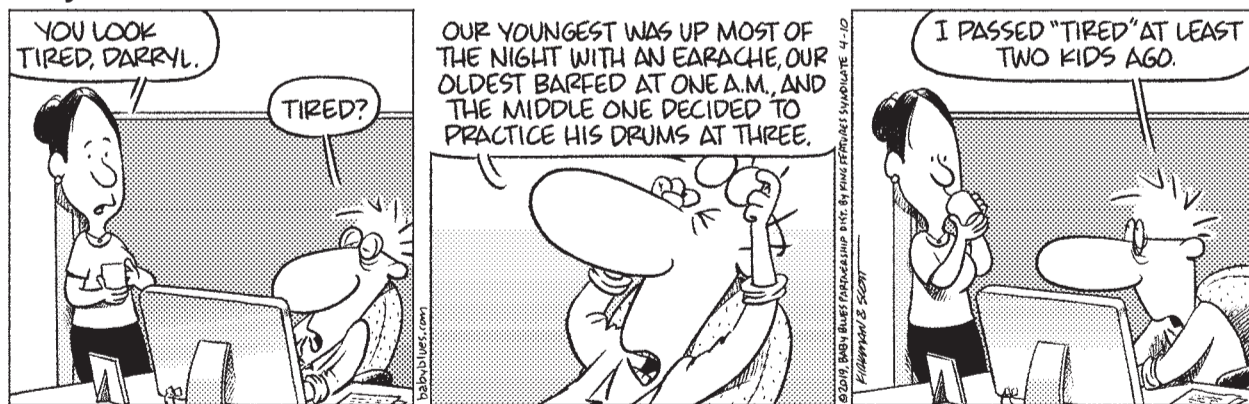
Blondie



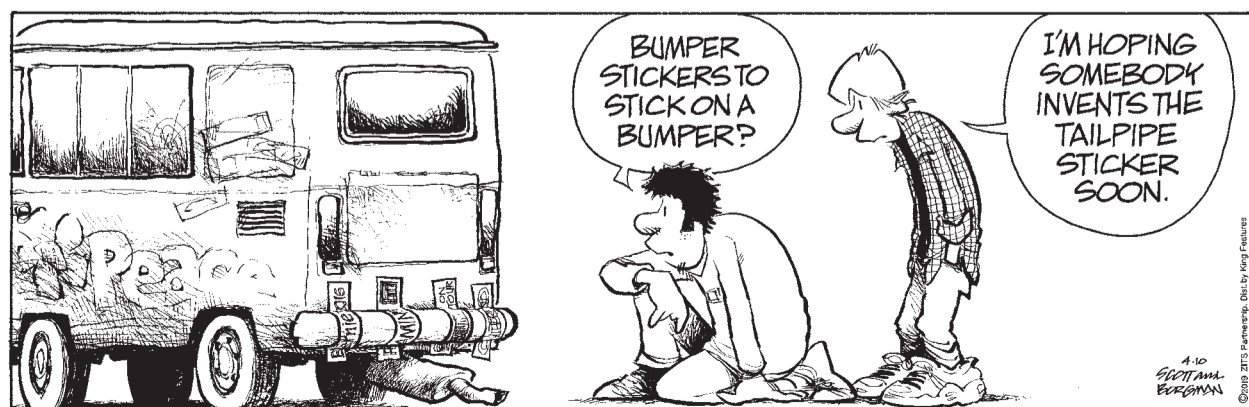
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			1					
6		8		2				
3	9				7			
4						9		
6								1
3	9				2	5	6	
5		6	4			1		
1		5	2			7		
2	6	1	7	3	8	4		

Difficulty Level ★★★

4/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

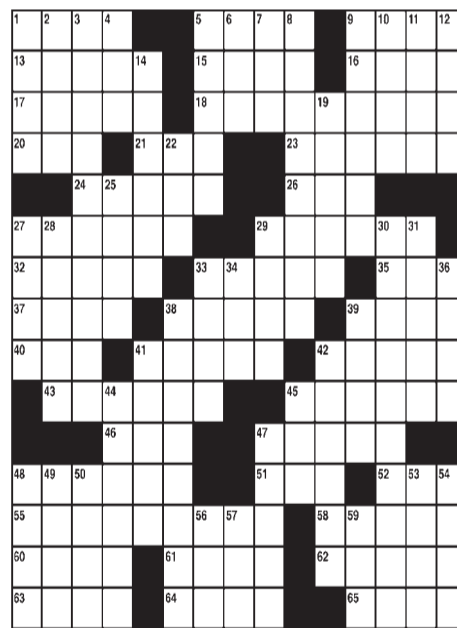
2	7	9	4	1	3	8	6	5
5	6	3	8	7	9	4	2	1
4	8	1	2	6	5	7	3	9
8	4	5	1	3	2	6	9	7
3	1	7	6	9	8	2	5	4
6	9	2	7	5	4	1	8	3
9	2	4	5	8	1	3	7	6
1	3	6	9	2	7	5	4	8
7	5	8	3	4	6	9	1	2

ACROSS

- 1 Too hasty
- 5 Cut short
- 9 Ending for Paul or Ann
- 13 Shade of yellow
- 15 "What's My ___?" of old TV
- 16 "Get lost!"
- 17 "Been ___ done that"
- 18 Surgery
- 20 Observe
- 21 Rollaway
- 23 Tilts
- 24 High schoolers
- 26 Cauldron
- 27 Fleet of ships
- 29 Tough fibrous tissues
- 32 Rotten person
- 33 Make points
- 35 "If ___ a Hammer"
- 37 Pillar
- 38 Actor Sir Michael ___
- 39 Contemptible
- 40 Word with boots or lift
- 41 Smooths wood
- 42 Do a waiter's job
- 43 Surgical nurse's attire
- 45 Drug seller
- 46 Crisco product
- 47 Unlike flatland
- 48 Clever
- 51 Bizarre
- 52 Forbid entry to
- 55 Narrow escape
- 58 Martini garnish
- 60 Subdue
- 61 Over-the-hill
- 62 ___ badge; Boy Scout's award
- 63 Scandinavian nation: abbr.
- 64 Goes bad
- 65 Finds a sum

DOWN

- 1 Learn by ___; memorize
- 2 "___ Breaky Heart"; country song
- 3 Musician's loose pages
- 4 Feminine pronoun
- 5 Blood problems
- 6 Word attached to saw or tide
- 7 Number of children for Hillary
- 8 Sweat
- 9 Manor & the land around it
- 10 Skinny
- 11 Tap the horn
- 12 Geological periods
- 14 Flow back
- 19 Let ___; not to mention
- 22 "Snakes ___ Plane"; thriller film
- 25 Wind direction
- 27 Matterhorn's range
- 28 Chess pieces
- 29 Close relations
- 30 Helicopter
- 31 Ointment
- 33 Without
- 34 "El ___"; Charlton Heston movie
- 36 Forest animal
- 38 San Francisco transport
- 39 Calf meat
- 41 Pricey hotel booking
- 42 Almost never
- 44 Awakened
- 45 ___ battle with; fought
- 47 ___ on to; keeps
- 48 Play divisions
- 49 Cabbage salad
- 50 "It's all Greek ___"
- 53 Enthusiastic
- 54 Holy fabrics
- 56 Not long ___; recently
- 57 Allow
- 59 Actress Thompson



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/10/19

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

ADS	ABBOT	NEST
NOAH	DRAPE	ACHY
YOGA	LIKEN	CHIN
MERRIMENT	HONE	
DIBS	ADO	
STRIPS	ANCESTOR	
CRANE	VIALS	ONE
RING	HALVE	MUSE
ACT	MOSEY	PAGED
PESTERED	MIGHTY	
WAR	SALE	
GOBI	IMPUDENCE	
AXES	BEARD	TOAD
NEAT	LARGE	ALSO
GNUS	ENTER	EYE

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4/10/19

Classifieds

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Marriott Ocean Club

Platinum Season
1 BR Ocean View \$ 12 K
2 BR Ocean View \$ 18 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$ 27 K

Marriott Ocean Club

Gold Season
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2 BR Ocean View \$8,5 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$10 K

Marriott Surf Club

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2 BR Ocean View \$17 K
2 BR Ocean Side \$18 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$27 K
3 BR Ocean View \$27 K

Marriott Surf Club

Gold Season
2 BR Garden View \$ 6 K
2 BR Ocean View \$ 8 K
2 BR Ocean Side \$ 9 K
3 BR Ocean View \$13 K

Divi Village

Building C
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3rd floor with 28 /8 can be accelerated
\$14 K

1 BR WK #14

1st floor 16 weeks remain
\$7,5 K

Dutch village

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ground floor Pool and Ocean view
35 weeks remain \$ 20 K both weeks

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April 10

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Global warming is shrinking glaciers faster than thought

By **SETH BORENSTEIN** AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Earth's glaciers are melting much faster than scientists thought. A new study shows they are losing 369 billion tons of snow and ice each year, more than half of that in North America.

The most comprehensive measurement of glaciers worldwide found that thousands of inland masses of snow compressed into ice are shrinking 18 percent faster than an international panel of scientists calculated in 2013.

The world's glaciers are shrinking five times faster now than they were in the 1960s. Their melt is accelerating due to global warming, and adding more water to already rising seas, the study found.

"Over 30 years suddenly almost all regions started losing mass at the same time," said lead author Michael Zemp, director of the World Glacier Monitoring Service at the University of Zurich. "That's clearly climate change if you look at the global picture."

The glaciers shrinking fastest are in central Europe, the Caucasus region, western Canada, the U.S. Lower 48 states, New Zealand and near the tropics. Glaciers in these places on average are losing more than 1 percent of their mass each



This Sept. 22, 2018 file photo shows the Baishui Glacier No.1 on the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain in the southern province of Yunnan in China.

Associated Press

year, according to a study in Monday's journal *Nature*.

"In these regions, at the current glacier loss rate, the glaciers will not survive the century," Zemp said.

Zemp's team used ground and satellite measurements to look at 19,000 glaciers, far more than previous studies. They determined that southwestern Asia is the only region of 19 where glaciers are not shrinking, which Zemp said is due to local climate conditions.

Since 1961, the world has lost 10.6 trillion tons of ice and snow (9.6 trillion metric tons), the study found. That's enough to cover the lower 48 U.S. states in about 4 feet of ice.

Scientists have known for a long time that global warming caused by human activities like burning coal, gasoline and diesel for electricity and transportation is making Earth lose its ice. They have been especially concerned with the large ice sheets cover-

ing Greenland and Antarctica.

This study, "is telling us there's much more to the story," said Mark Serreze, director of the National Snow and Ice Data Center in Boulder, Colorado, who wasn't part of the study. "The influence of glaciers on sea level is bigger than we thought."

A number of factors are making sea levels rise. The biggest cause is that oceans are getting warmer, which makes water expand. The new figures show

glacier melt is a bigger contributor than thought, responsible for about 25% to 30% of the yearly rise in oceans, Zemp said.

Rising seas threaten coastal cities around the world and put more people at risk of flooding during storms.

Glaciers grow in winter and shrink in summer, but as the Earth has warmed, they are growing less and shrinking more. Zemp said warmer summer temperatures are the main reason glaciers are shrinking faster.

While people think of glaciers as polar issues, shrinking mountain glaciers closer to the equator can cause serious problems for people who depend on them, said Twila Moon, a snow and ice data center scientist who also wasn't part of the study. She said people in the Andes, for example, rely on the glaciers for drinking and irrigation water each summer.

A separate study Monday in *Environmental Research Letters* confirmed faster melting and other changes in the Arctic. It found that in winter, the Arctic is warming 2.8 times faster than the rest of the Northern Hemisphere. Overall, the region is getting more humid, cloudier and wetter. "It's on steroids, it's hyperactive," said lead author Jason Box, a scientist for the Danish Meteorological Institute. □



Canadian astronaut David Saint-Jacques, right, and NASA astronaut Anne McClain take part in a spacewalk as seen in the live feed from the Canadian Space Agency headquarters in St. Hubert, Quebec, Monday, April 8, 2019.

Associated Press

Spacewalking astronauts tackle battery, cable work

By **MARCIA DUNN** AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) —

Spacewalking astronauts completed battery and cable work outside the International Space Station on Monday despite communication trouble that sometimes made it hard for them to hear.

During the spacewalk, Canadian astronaut David Saint-Jacques reported that U.S. astronaut Anne McClain's voice was faint at times. The problem worsened as their 6 1/2-hour ex-

cursion drew to a close.

"We know that it's a lot of hard work and a lot of big sighs of relief as soon as this hatch gets closed," McClain said once the pair were inside the air lock.

Within moments, the spacewalkers could barely hear their colleagues over the radio loop. They had to shout and repeat words at times, as did the astronauts on the other side of the hatch.

McClain, meanwhile, reported having a thin layer of moisture inside her hel-

met. The change to her visor was noticeable in the last 15 minutes of the spacewalk, she noted.

NASA is wary about moisture inside helmets ever since an Italian astronaut almost drowned during a spacewalk nearly six years ago because of a water leak in his suit. McClain insisted she wasn't wet, and that the moisture was minimal. A crewmate later noted perspiration.

The ongoing battery work involved re-installing two old batteries. □

New exhibit reconsiders the Weimar Republic, 100 years later

By FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — A divided nation grappling with rising inequality, new mass media and the growth of populist politics.

Sounds familiar?

Germany's first democracy, the Weimar Republic of 1919-1933, has long been regarded as a lesson in political failure. Lately, it has also been held up as a cautionary tale for the present.

It emerged from the ruins of World War I, as a defeated nation tried to reinvent itself in the midst of economic and social turmoil. It ended with Adolf Hitler's Nazi party seizing power, persecuting minorities and leading Germany into another calamitous war.

A new exhibition in Berlin, 100 hundred years later, is questioning the perception that the era's political and economic disaster was inevitable and stressing the lasting impact of the Weimar Republic.

Among the 250 items on display at the German Historical Museum in Berlin are campaign posters highlighting the political debates of the era, from the fight for secular education to a debate over the expropriation of Germany's aristocracy.

A startlingly modern kitchen reflects the efforts that the era's designers made to accommodate the needs of working women and the worldwide influence of artistic and architectural trends like the Bauhaus movement.

Radio recordings by prominent figures, including the physicist Albert Einstein, reveal the buzz surrounding this new medium and the way it sped up the news cycle — for better and for worse.

Advertisements for family planning ("Do not go blindly into marriage!") and clips from 1920s films about gay and lesbian love affairs reflect the new-found confidence of a generation willing to challenge sexual norms.

Like "Babylon Berlin," a crime series set in the cab-

aret halls and back alleys of interwar Berlin, the Weimar exhibition hints at dark times to come. There are the military firearms finding their way onto the streets and fueling political strife that would result in hundreds of political assassinations. There are also the photographs of desperate men and women walking the streets with sandwich boards looking for work at a time when hyperinflation was rampant, food prices were skyrocketing and hunger was stalking middle-class families.

But unlike many historical exhibitions in Germany, this one doesn't dwell on the Nazis.

"We didn't just want to view Weimar from its ending," said Simone Erpel, the



In this Wednesday, April 3, 2019 photo, a historic poster is displayed at the exhibition 'Weimar: The Essence And Value Of Democracy' at the German Historical Museum in Berlin, Germany. Associated Press

show's curator. Universal suffrage, the principle of gender equality, the establishment of works councils that gave employees a say in how their companies are

run were all achievements the Weimar Republic can lay claim to, she said. The 1919 Weimar constitution — devised in the eponymous central German city

at a time when Berlin was too rowdy for reasoned debate — also provided the foundations for the country's successful post-World War II constitution.

If the Weimar period offers any lesson for the present, it's that democracy shouldn't be taken for granted, said Raphael Gross, the director of the German Historical Museum. And while democracy means majority rule, a willingness to seek compromise is essential for it to truly serve all and avoid sliding into a popular dictatorship, he said. "Part of democracy is being aware that however much one is convinced of one's own position, nobody can be as confident of the truth as if they were God," he said. □

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Located at Riu Antillas as formerly The Westin Resort.

Go behind the dancing to see what fueled FX's 'Fosse/Verdon'

By **MARK KENNEDY**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — He was a director and choreographer whose signature was the backward lean and the pelvic thrust. She was his muse and a ferocious dancer in her own right. They were perfect together and they were also terrible together.

The complex, fiery relationship Bob Fosse had with Gwen Verdon is the subject

of "Fosse/Verdon," a new eight-part series on FX this month starring Sam Rockwell and Michelle Williams. Fosse was the exacting mind behind the angular movements and bowler hats of "Chicago," the brutally autobiographical "All That Jazz" and the dark punch of the film "Cabaret." Verdon won four Tony Awards within six years in the 1950s. They were married in 1960 and separated

in 1971 when Fosse's womanizing finally took its toll. Despite their personal turmoil, both remained in each other's lives, inspiring and elevating the others' work until Fosse died of a heart attack in 1987. As ever, she was by his side.

Thomas Kail, the Tony Award-winning director of the musical "Hamilton" who directed and is an executive producer for "Fosse/Verdon," said the series explores the couple who make up the show's title but also the nature of artistic creation itself.

"This felt like a chance to use this relationship — the connection, the messiness, the clarity and the love between these two — as a portal to investigate how things are made," he said. Fitting for a portrayal pair of Broadway superstars, the series has grease paint running through its DNA. In addition to Kail, "Hamilton"



This image released by FX shows Michelle Williams as Gwen Verdon in a scene from the series "Fosse/Verdon."

Associated Press

creator Lin-Manuel Miranda is an executive producer and the key writer, Steven Levenson, won a Tony for "Dear Evan Hansen." Broadway veterans, including Santino Fontana, Byron Jennings and Ethan Slater have roles. As do Laura Osnes, who plays Shirley MacLaine, Kelli Barrett who plays Liza Minnelli, and Brandon Uranowitz who

portrays Dustin Hoffman. Norbert Leo Butz, a two-time Tony winner, plays the acerbic screenwriter Paddy Chayefsky, a close friend of Fosse, but one who also fought with him. "They didn't have any filters. There were no boundaries. They would just say the truth to each other but they were also very sensitive, very neurotic," he said. □

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<p>SHAZAM!</p> <p>ZACHARY LEVI MICHELLE BORTH</p> <p>DC</p> <p>CXC</p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-THU 5:00 7:50 FRI 5:00 7:50 10:40 SAT 2:10 5:00 7:50 10:40 SAT 2:10 5:00 7:50</p> <p>VIP MON-THU 3:40 6:30 9:20 SAT-SUN 12:50 3:40 6:30 9:20</p>	<p>MISSING LINK</p> <p>ZACH GALIFIANAKIS ZOE SALDANA</p> <p>WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES MON-THU 4:15 SAT-SUN 2:00 4:15</p>
<p>PET SEMATARY</p> <p>JASON CLARKE AMY SEIMETZ</p> <p>MON-THU 4:55 7:15 9:35 FRI 4:55 7:15 9:35 11:55 SAT 2:35 4:55 7:15 9:35 11:55 SUN 2:35 4:55 7:15 9:35</p>	<p>HOTEL MUMBAI</p> <p>DEV PATEL ARMIE HAMMER</p> <p>MON-SUN 9:30</p>
<p>LOS DOMIRRI QUENOS 2</p> <p>JORGE PABÓN FAUSTO MATA</p> <p>SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES MON-THU & SUN 3:45 8:30 FRI-SAT 3:45 8:30 10:45</p>	<p>DUMBO</p> <p>COLIN FARRELL MICHAEL KEATON</p> <p>Disney</p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-FRI 4:10 6:35 9:00 SAT-SUN 1:50 4:10 6:35 9:00</p> <p>SENSORY FRIENDLY PRESENTATION SATURDAY, APRIL 6 AT 1:00PM</p>
<p>Als</p> <p>LUPITA NYONG'O WINSTON DUKE</p> <p>MON-FRI 6:00 SAT-SUN 1:15 6:00</p> <p>VIP MON-FRI 4:35 7:05 9:35 SAT-SUN 2:05 4:35 7:05 9:35</p>	<p>CAPTAIN MARVEL</p> <p>BRIE LARSON SAMUEL L. JACKSON</p> <p>WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-SUN 6:30 9:15</p>
<p>WONDER PARK</p> <p>BRIANNA DENSKI JENNIFER GARNER</p> <p>MON-FRI 3:45 5:40 7:35 SAT-SUN 1:50 3:45 5:40 7:35</p>	<p>A MADEA FAMILY FUNERAL</p> <p>TYLER PERRY CASSI DAVIS</p> <p>MON-SUN 9:30</p>

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Rachel Howzell Hall writes a breakout novel



This cover image released by Forge Books shows "They All Fall Down," by Rachel Howzell Hall.

Associated Press

By **OLINE H. COGDILL**

Associated Press

"They All Fall Down" (Forge) by Rachel Howzell Hall After four well-received novels about LAPD homicide cop Elouise "Lou" Norton, Rachel Howzell Hall confidently delivers a highly entertaining stand-alone that pays homage

to Agatha Christie while finding its own individual approach.

Hall's "They All Fall Down" uses the same set up as Christie's classic "And Then There Were None" in which strangers are lured to an isolated island and then start dying. But the Christie homage quickly morphs into Hall's perspective with a diverse cast of characters and her own spin on the plot.

The narrator of "They All Fall Down" is Miriam "Mimi" Macy, who is probably the last person anyone would want to be marooned with, even in a mansion as nice as the one on Mictlan Island near Puerto Penasco, Sonora, Mexico. The vain, anxiety-riddled Mimi is consumed with jealousy and hatred. Every conversation and minor slight becomes a challenge for her to pushback, or to plan revenge, as she is incapable of letting anything go. Her attitude has caused

her husband to leave her, wrecked the relationship with their daughter and gotten her fired. The police also want to question her regarding an incident that may have led to a death, and a neighbor may be suing her.

Yet Mimi may be the weekend's most congenial guest. The others include a former policeman, a chef, a financial adviser, a nurse, a lawyer, and a young widow. They've all been lured to the island for different reasons_Mimi thinks she will be on a reality TV show. Actually, each has been brought there by their late attorney, Phillip Omeke, who leaves a letter promising that by the end of the weekend each will be remembered in his will. That promise may hinge on who's still alive as one by one the guests begin dying. Each's secrets, and reason for being invited to the island, are carefully doled out. □

25 years later, TCM still abides, so movie lovers pray

By JAKE COYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — There is always an asteroid, real or imagined, bearing down on Turner Classic Movies.

Fears that something might befall the commercial-less bastion of classic Hollywood films aren't always justified. But there's an instinctual understanding that keeping anything good and pure alive in this dark, dark world is against the odds. By now, the hosts and executives of TCM are quite accustomed to fretful, agitated fans coming to them for reassurance that, yes, Turner Classic is OK, and, no, commercials aren't coming.

"I've had the good fortune to get to know Paul Thomas Anderson a little bit and let me just put it this way: He never asks how I'm doing," says Ben Mankiewicz, who in 2003 became only the second TCM host after Robert Osborne.

Almost everything in cable television and film has changed since Ted Turner launched the network in 1994. But through endless technological upheavals, four U.S. presidents and three Spider-men, Turner Classic humbly, persistently, improbably abides. On Sunday, TCM will turn 25, celebrating a quarter of a century as a lighthouse of classic cinema; a never-stopping, flickering beacon of Buster Keaton and Doris Day, Barbara Stanwyck and Ernst Lubitsch.

"We view ourselves as the keeper of the flame," says Jennifer Dorian, general manager of TCM. "We're stronger than ever."

That will be good news to the TCM fans whose heart rates quickened after AT&T's takeover of Time Warner, which had bought Turner Broadcasting back in 1996. That led to restructuring, announced last month, that placed TCM in WarnerMedia's "global kids and young adults" subdivision, along with Cartoon Network and Adult Swim. WarnerMedia also shut down TCM's nascent streaming service, FilmStruck, last November after deeming it a "niche



This image released by Turner Classic Movies shows Clark Gable, left, and Vivien Leigh in a scene from "Gone with the Wind."

service." WarnerMedia is to launch a larger streaming platform later this year. The demise of FilmStruck prompted an outcry from the likes of Steven Spielberg, Martin Scorsese and Christopher Nolan who petitioned WarnerMedia for its preservation. Some of the biggest names in Hollywood had TCM's back. One privately told Mankiewicz: "If you think we're mad about FilmStruck, wait 'til you see what we do if anyone messes with the network."

Yet the shuttering of FilmStruck (its streaming partner, Criterion Collection, relaunched as a stand-alone service on Monday) reinforced concerns that amid all the juggling and bundling of merging conglomerates, TCM might slip through the digital cracks. "The fact that there are really passionate, vocal people out there helps us sort of stay the course. I think our corporate bosses don't want to upset those people," says Charlie Tabesh, TCM's programming chief and a 21-year veteran at the network. "While you can never promise anything, I've been through it enough that I'd be sur-

prised if they changed it." Change can be a dirty word around TCM. "Lower case 'c,' please," says Mankiewicz. "Evolve" is more preferable. TCM is, after all, a place where time nearly stops. In the 25 years since its founding, its focus remains overwhelmingly the golden age of Hollywood. Movies from the '30s, '40s and '50s, Tabesh says, make up approximately 70 percent of its programming.

"That's our bread and butter," says Mankiewicz. "Who doesn't like bread and butter?"

To mark its 25th anniversary, TCM will on Sunday again air "Gone With the Wind," the film that it first transmitted on April 14, 1994. Since then, the 1939 epic has aired more than 60 times on the network. The 10th annual TCM Classic Film Festival also kicks off Thursday in Los Angeles with "When Harry Met Sally..."

Fans of Turner Classic are as varied as Martha Stewart, Evander Holyfield, Alex Trebek and Kermit the Frog — all of whom have been guest programmers. Scorsese famously keeps it playing in his editing suite. Keith Richards is rumored to be

a devotee. Even Donald Trump once stopped by to talk about, among other titles, "Citizen Kane." "Although I'm not sure he'd actually watched the movies he talked about, to be honest," says Tabesh.

Contemporary films have made only hesitant, much-considered inroads. (The newest films to air on TCM are "Hugo" and "The Artist," both from 2011.) More international films have slowly, cautiously been added, too. Over the years, TCM has expanded well beyond the Turner library (some 4,700 films from MGM, RKO and pre-1950 Warner Bros.) via deals with virtually every studio.

Dorian views coming under Warner control as a homecoming.

"We're moving closer to the library. We're going to a part of the company that's steeped in film history and values the cultural heritage of film," says Dorian. "We absolutely intend to still be multi-studio."

By rigorously staying true to itself, the cult of TCM has grown over the years. The network's sixth cruise is to set sail in October. There is also a TCM Wine Club and a fan club, TCM Backlot. To

celebrate its 25th anniversary, 25 fans will get to introduce a film with Mankiewicz. Turner Classic will also pay further homage to Osborne, who for most of its history was its friendly, welcoming face. He died in 2017 after 62,851 appearances on the network.

New hosts have joined, including Eddie Muller, Dave Karger and Alicia Malone, a film writer and podcaster who grew up in Australia dreaming of being Marilyn Monroe. She has been proud to remind viewers of women's place in film history on TCM, which, she notes, is programmed by people, not algorithms.

"I felt like I found my tribe," Malone says of coming to the network last year. "This is part of preserving film history. What TCM does best is tell these stories."

Yet asteroid or not, there's an unmistakable whiff of that "c" word in the air. "Obviously, we feel a sea change coming," says Mankiewicz. WarnerMedia declined to comment for this article, but Dorian said the message from above so far is only supportive.

"The large stroke is they want us to keep doing what we're doing," says Dorian.

As far as TCM's place in the rapidly changing streaming world, Dorian says that's "TBD." "There's a world of opportunity in front of us with streaming. I do not know the right approach for TCM at this moment," she says. "At our company, we're developing our new plan right now."

But predicting the future isn't TCM's nature. For a network that has always fixed its eyes firmly on the past, the present moment is one to savor.

"It feels momentous. It feels like we really accomplished something. It's a quarter of a century," says Mankiewicz. "If you asked me what I'd like to be doing in another 25 years, I hope to be introducing movies on TCM, having debates about whether you should remake the 'The Thin Man' and listening to those who say, 'You're showing too many modern movies!'"

Associated Press

Creating an eco-friendly nursery, from paint to fabrics

By MELISSA RAYWORTH
Associated Press

When interior designer Jenny Dina Kirschner was designing a bedroom for her first baby, she wanted to create the healthiest possible space — for her baby and for the environment. She began by choosing healthier paints, natural-fiber rugs and organic fabrics.

"Babies put everything in their mouths," Kirschner says. So her goal is "try to protect them as much as possible from exposure to those things that can be avoided."

Creating an eco-friendly nursery has gained new attention lately, since news reports have said Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan the Duchess of Sussex plan to paint the nursery for their soon-to-be-born royal baby with all-natural, vegan paint.

That's the general approach taken by Brooke Berrios, an early childhood education teacher, when her son was born six years ago. Berrios, an instructor at the Kremen School of Education and Human Development at California State University, Fresno, was familiar with research into the impact of toxins on children's brain development. She painted her son's



This photo shows a nursery by interior designer Jenny Dina Kirschner. Non-VOC wall paint, organic cotton bedding and an organic cotton mattress can help create an eco-friendly and healthy space in a new baby's bedroom, says Kirschner.

Associated Press

nursery with non-VOC paint (paint that doesn't contain volatile compounds which give off gases) and bought organic cotton towels and bedding.

"I always get called hippie-dippie friend," she says. But "toxicity from the environ-

ment can have an impact." What are the best ways to make sure your baby's nursery is healthy, and has as little negative impact on the environment as possible?

DO SOME RESEARCH

Some furniture upholstered with 100% natural fibers may have insides that include formaldehyde, flame retardants or other unhealthy chemicals, Kirschner says, so find out what's in them.

High-quality natural fiber rugs can actually last longer than some synthetics. And they can be left undyed, or colored with vegetable dyes.

Designer Paula Queen, founder of the children's decor line Lil' Pyar, suggests asking what dyes have been used on the rugs and fabrics you choose for a baby's room.

Also, ask where the items are being made and whether they will need to be shipped. Buying locally is the greenest option.

BUY FOR THE LONG TERM Interior designer and HGTV host Vern Yip advises parents to choose nursery

items that can be used for decades — even generations — to come.

"Look at furniture that's going into your nursery as long-term furniture, things they can use for their lifetime," he says. "We didn't really buy pieces, with the exception of the crib, that were intended for a nursery."

For his children's nurseries, Yip chose dressers with a removable diaper-changing tray on top, rather than buying a dedicated changing table that his family would get rid of once the kids were out of diapers.

He also suggests looking at second-hand furniture and vintage items rather than buying something newly manufactured.

These designers also recommend choosing chairs or tables that could be used elsewhere in your home in the future.

And light the room for the long-term: Yip points out that we often leave lights on in a nursery, so choosing long-life LED bulbs is prac-

tical on two levels. Tired, busy parents don't have to change light bulbs as often, and LEDs waste far less energy than conventional bulbs. Opt for items constructed from sustainably grown materials or made with environmental concerns in mind. Queen's firm makes small seating poufs from canvas fabric remnants left over from other manufacturing.

"We really use every element of material that we can," she says.

PEACE OF MIND

Kirschner points out that some new parents struggle to balance their desire for a healthy space with the convenience of synthetic fabrics and rugs that are easy to clean. Life with babies can be messy.

"I have a lot of clients with kids and babies, and they all want these synthetic textiles used everywhere, because they are so stain-resistant and virtually indestructible," Kirschner says. "As a designer, I have to warn them that these are not healthy." □



This photo provided by designer Paula Queen of Lil' Pyar shows Queen's Kitab Pouf, made from canvas fabric remnants left over from other manufacturing, which might otherwise have been thrown away.

Associated Press



This photo shows a nursery by interior designer Jenny Dina Kirschner. For parents seeking an "eco-friendly" baby nursery, Kirschner suggests researching the materials used not just for the surface upholstery, but also in manufacturing of the interior of any furniture you purchase.

Associated Press